Broome County Youth Prevention Partnership State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) Project

Comprising the School Districts of:

Binghamton
Johnson City
Maine-Endwell
Union-Endicott

Broome County Comprehensive Risk Profile 1995-2002

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I. Introduction

Children are shaped by the environments in which they live. These environments include characteristics of communities and the individuals who reside in them. Communities in close proximity may vary widely in terms of their demographic characteristics, educational and economic levels, cultures, customs values, nature of the schools, agencies, religious organizations and available services as well as future prospects and opportunities for the neighborhood children. Community characteristics may place children at greater risk for acquisition of problem behavior, or may protect against poor outcomes. Those community characteristics that are associated with the subsequent development of problem behaviors such as early substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and other antisocial or delinquent behavior are referred to as risk factors (Hawkins, Catalano, & Miller, 1992). Risk factors may be present across multiple domains including community, school, family, and individual characteristics. Moreover, the greater number of risk factors to which individuals are exposed across these domains, the greater their liability to abuse substances (Bry, McKeon, & Pandina, 1982). However, the accessibility of protection in the presence of risk has been associated with fewer of these

problems. Prevention research has suggested that a risk-focused approach, targeting reduction of risk factors and augmentation of protective factors is the most effective way to thwart the development of problem behavior.

Funded by the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), the Broome County Youth Prevention Partnership (BCYPP) is a coalition of local organizations, institutions, and agencies committed to reducing substance abuse in Broome County by coordinating the implementation of research-based substance abuse prevention programming using the Communities That Care® (CTC) model. As a methodological framework designed to guide community prevention planning and programming, the CTC model provides a procedure for the identification of empirically derived risk and protective factors for substance abuse within a given community. The risk and protective model of prevention is the approach advocated by both the BCYPP and OASAS.

The purpose of this Comprehensive Risk Profile is to provide a summary of risk and protective factors present in Broome County for the purpose of identifying strengths and weaknesses that may be targeted through prevention and other intervention programming. The Broome County Comprehensive Risk Profile presents an evaluation of community risk and protective factors through comparisons of national, state, and local data from Broome County and in

particular, the communities that comprise the four target school districts of Maine-Endwell, Union-Endicott, Johnson City, and Binghamton. Where possible data were included from Oneida County for the purpose of comparing Broome County to a region that has had similar economic and population changes. As part of an ongoing multifaceted needs assessment, this profile also summarizes findings from the Communities That Care ® (CTC) student self-report surveys as well as independent evaluations through student focus groups and parent surveys.

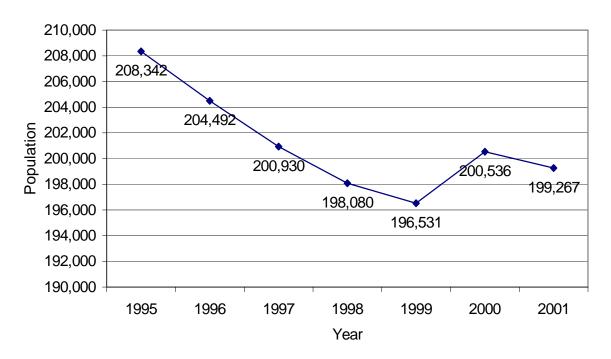
II. Broome County Overview

Broome County, located in the Southern Tier of New York State, consists of urban industrial, suburban and rural communities. Binghamton, the county's most densely populated city, is located on the confluence of the Chenango and Susquehanna rivers. The city and surrounding communities have served as the industrial center for the Southern Tier for most of the twentieth century. During most of this period, the major employers for the community were the tanneries of Endicott-Johnson Corporation, a major shoe producer, and International Business Machines (IBM). A population and economy peak occurred during the 1950's, followed by downsizing and subsequent closing of the E-J plant and, later, massive job loss at IBM due to fewer military-based government contracts. Many of the job losses have been in the manufacturing sector at a rate of 13.4%, twice the rate of the New York State (6.7%) and the nation (7.0%). According to the New York State Department of Labor, the Broome County unemployment rate of 5.6% in November 2002, appeared stable compared to 5.3% in November 2001, which had increased by 2.4% since March 2001.

As a result of industry loss, the Broome County population has steadily declined, accompanied by an array of demographic changes. According to the

US census, between 1990 and 1998, Binghamton ranked second (to Utica-Rome, NY) as the fastest decreasing metropolitan area in the nation. Census data indicated that Broome County's population diminished by 5.5% between 1990 and 1999, whereas latest estimates suggested a turn in the opposite direction with a population increase of over 4000 persons to 200,536 in 2000. However, it is not clear whether this was an error correction from the information gathered from the 2000 census or an actual rebound. Most recent data indicated that the population has slightly decreased by 0.6% between 2000 and 2001. The figure below presents changes in Broome County's population over the past seven years.

Population Patterns in Broome County



III. BCYPP Target Districts: Binghamton, Johnson City, Maine-Endwell, and Union-Endicott

Broome County comprises approximately 25 cities, towns and villages. This report focuses on the communities comprising four school districts in Broome County: Binghamton, Johnson City, Maine-Endwell, and Union-Endicott, which account for approximately 60% of Broome County's population. Maps of the county school district and population density are provided in Appendix A. The following table presents Broome County and target area demographics by individuals and households. In some cases several villages or towns, although listed separately, are subsumed under a greater area. For example Endwell is part of the greater Town of Union. Shading was used to highlight data from the communities that comprise the four target school districts.

Broome County Population and Number of Households By Geographic Location

Geographic Location	Total Population	Total Households
Barker Town	2,738	993
Binghamton City	47,380	21,089
Binghamton Town	4,969	1,813
Chenango Town	11,454	4,519
Colesville Town	5,441	1,944
Conklin Town	5,940	2,249
Deposit Village	835	345
Dickinson Town	5,335	1,980
Endicott Village	13,038	5,996
Endwell CDP	11,706	5,187
Fenton Town	6,909	2,763
Johnson City Village	15,535	6,981
Kirkwood Town	5,651	2,247
Lisle Village	302	116
Lisle Town	2,707	971
Maine Town	5,459	2,036
Nanticoke Town	1,790	629
Port Dickinson Village	1,697	734
Sanford Town	2,477	983
Triangle Town	3,032	1,131
Union Town	56,298	24,538
Vestal Town	26,535	8,525
Whitney Point Village	965	397
Windsor Village	901	369
Windsor Town	6,421	2,339

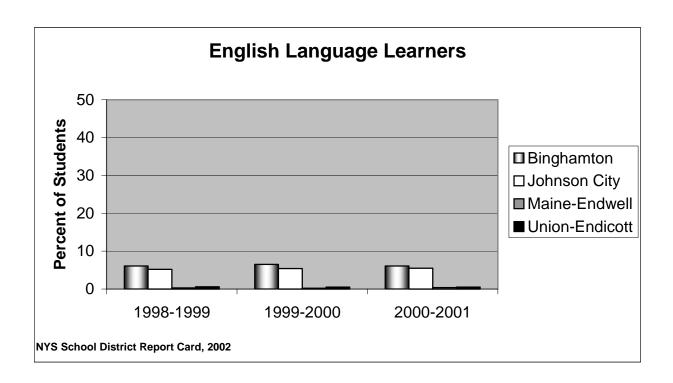
American Fact Finder, US Census 2000

Overall, Broome County student demographic composition was prevailingly White (90%), followed by Black/African-American (6%) and Hispanic (2%). Consistent with county demography, the majority of students across the four target school districts were reported as White, with modest variation among the districts. A greater percentage of Black/African American (19.0%) and Hispanic (5.2%) individuals live in the City of Binghamton compared to the other school districts. At the other end of the spectrum, Maine-Endwell is mostly White (96.8%), with very few racial or ethnic minorities.

Student Racial/Ethnic Origin					
	Binghamton	Johnson City	Maine- Endwell	Union- Endicott	Broome County
	TO	TAL ENRO	LLMENT		
Students	6,176	2,593	2,720	4,568	32,514
	PERC	ENT OF EN	ROLLMENT		
White	71.7%	84.2%	96.8%	92.3%	90.0%
Black	19.0%	6.6%	1.4%	4.2%	5.6%
Hispanic	5.2%	2.9%	0.3%	1.0%	1.7%
American Indian, Alaskan, Asian, or Pacific Islander	4.1%	6.4%	1.6%	2.5%	2.6%

New York State District Report Card Comprehensive Information Report 3/29/02

Reports of race/ethnicity do not fully capture cultural diversity within a community. For example, the four most commonly spoken languages besides English in the target school districts were Spanish, Vietnamese, Serbian and Russian (Ryabchenko et al, 2001). Approximately five percent of youth in the four target school districts speak a language other than English at home (DRP, 2000). In particular, Binghamton and Johnson City have reported a greater proportion of English Language Learners than Maine-Endwell or Union-Endicott.



IV. RISK FACTORS

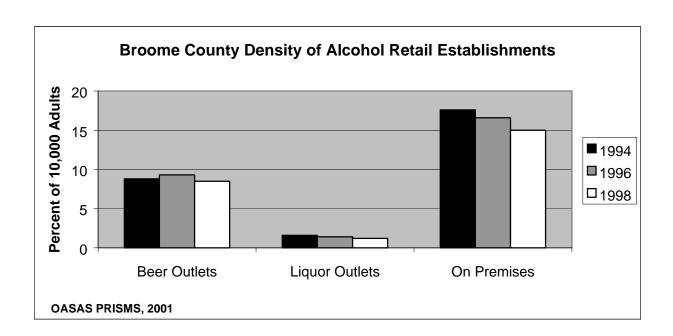
Risk factors refer to characteristics across community, family, school and individual domains that place an individual at increased risk for problem behavior initiation. Risk factors were derived from research studies that examined multiple variables or indicators associated with the problem behaviors in question. Therefore risk factors cannot be measured directly. For example, the extent to which a community has elevated levels of the risk factor "Low School Commitment" cannot be determined from an individual assessment instrument. Specific indicators of risk factors are objective measures that together constitute indices of risk factors. For example, attendance rates and school dropout rates provide objective measures of "Low School Commitment". The remainder of this report presents risk indicators that comprise each risk factor for communities within Broome County.

1. RISK FACTOR: AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS

Physical, social, legal, and economic availability of drugs determine the extent of substance availability within a community. Physical availability refers to whether a substance is actually present and how easily an individual might access that substance. The likelihood of youth obtaining tobacco or alcohol would increase as the density of retail establishments that sell these items increases. Therefore the density of retail establishments is a relevant indicator of physical availability. Laws, regulations and policies on the sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are indicators of legal availability of these substances. Enforcement of laws that prohibit and punish sale of substances to minors or that discourage and punish substance use can decrease the risk of youth substance use in communities with high density of alcohol retail enterprises. Social availability refers to how social indicators affect levels of alcohol and other drug use. Indicators of social availability include perceptions of availability stemming from social activities that include drug use and positive attitudes of a community toward drug use. The following section presents Broome County and national data pertaining to substance availability.

Risk Indicator: Density of Retail Establishments

Alcohol is both the most readily available drug and the most often selected for consumption by adolescents. One index of physical availability is the density of retail establishments that sell alcohol including liquor stores, restaurants, bars and beer outlets. The figure below presents Broome County rates (per 10,000 adults 21 and older) of establishments that sold beer and liquor for off-site consumption and on-site consumption for 1994, 1996, and 1998. Individual rates for the target school districts of the BCYPP were not available.



The rates of alcohol retail establishments in Broome County were relatively stable and consistent with similar communities in Upstate New York.

Risk Indicator: Perceived Availability

In order to obtain alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, adolescents must use illegal means such as completing illegal purchases or using an illegal supplier, while adults typically have ready and legal access to alcohol and tobacco through retail establishments. Youth access to alcohol and tobacco is also influenced by parental supervision and behavior. Whereas some parents may not keep alcohol or cigarettes in the house, in other homes the substances may be present. The extent to which youth may partake of these substances is influenced by parental expectations, how closely the substances are monitored, and/or the frequency of parental use.

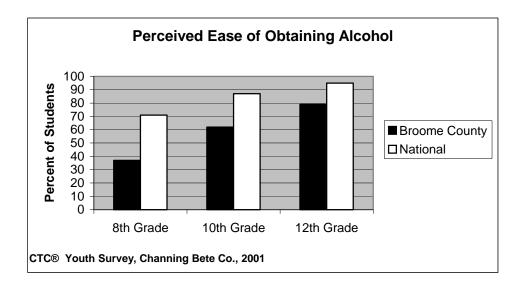
Youth perceptions of availability are affected by multiple factors including availability of retail stores, prior experience in obtaining these substances, and peer use. Perceptions of availability are obtained through self-report instruments such as surveys and youth self report of perceptions are associated with risk behavior. For the purposes of assessing local perceptions of substance availability, the CTC Youth Survey was administered to 4013 Broome County youth across the four target school districts in the fall of 2000. The CTC Youth Survey assessed risk and protective factors associated with early substance use and the prevalence of problem behaviors. Several items

asked respondents to report how easy it would be to obtain alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs. These results were compared to a similar community sample from the Monitoring the Future Study (Johnson, Bachman & O'Malley, 2000) of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who were asked how difficult it would be to obtain these drugs.

The sections below present perceptions of substance availability for 8th, 10th and 12th graders from the local and the national samples. It is important to note that for the local sample, the Binghamton School District was over-represented (i.e., all students were surveyed) compared to the other school districts and comprised approximately 50% of the total sample. It is also necessary to interpret these data with caution due to subtle differences in the wording of questions.

Alcohol

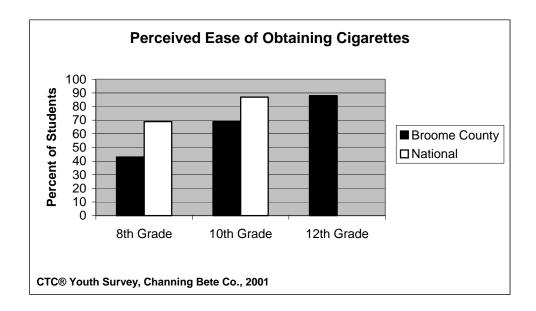
The following figure presents perceived alcohol availability for Broome County and the national sample.



The perceptions of alcohol availability increased across grade level for both samples. More than half of the 10th graders and most of the 12th graders endorsed alcohol as being easy to obtain. A greater percentage of respondents from the national survey perceived alcohol as easy to obtain compared to local students.

Tobacco

Similar trends were evident for perceived tobacco availability. As with perceived alcohol availability, perceptions of cigarette availability increased with age, as presented in the following figure.

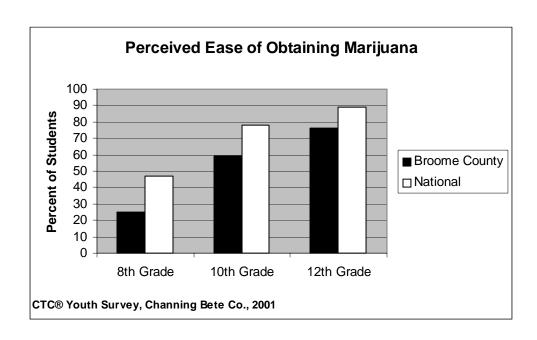


Approximately half of the eighth graders in the four target school districts reported that cigarettes were easy to obtain. Nearly all of the 12th graders indicated that cigarettes were easy to obtain. Fewer Broome County students in the eighth and tenth grades reported that cigarettes were readily accessible compared to students from the Monitoring the Future Study. National data were not obtained for 12th graders due to proximity to the legal age of

purchase, which may be reflected in the frequency of 12th graders who perceived cigarettes as easy to obtain in Broome County.

Marijuana

In the four target school districts, approximately 25% of the eighth graders, 59% of the tenth graders and 76% of the twelfth graders reported that marijuana was easy to obtain. The trend for increasing perceptions of marijuana availability across grade levels was also seen in the national sample as well. The figure below presents the percentage of students from the Broome County CTC Youth Survey and the national Monitoring the Future Study Survey who indicated having easy access to marijuana.



These data suggest that the drastic increase in percentage of students who perceive marijuana as easy to obtain, between the eighth and the twelfth grades (i.e., approximately 50%), warrants both national and local attention.

Other Drugs

Fewer students endorsed drugs other than alcohol, tobacco or marijuana as easy to obtain. Only 6% of the 7th graders, 14% of the 9th graders and 23% of the 11th graders who completed the CTC Youth Survey in 2000 reported that other drugs were easy to obtain. As with perceived availability of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, the percentage of students who perceived other drugs as easy to obtain increased with grade level.

Summary of major findings for Availability

- Broome County's density of retail establishments that sell alcohol has remained stable and consistent with that of other Upstate New York communities.
- Perceptions of alcohol, tobacco and other drug availability increase across development.
- A slightly lower percentage of Broome County students at each grade level compared to students across the nation, perceive drugs other than tobacco, alcohol and marijuana as easy to obtain.
- Broome County's results for substance availability are comparable to similar communities in upstate New York and the nation.

2. RISK FACTOR: COMMUNITY LAWS AND NORMS FAVORABLE TO USE

Community laws and norms concerning substance abuse have played an important role in substance use (Braft & Kingsley, 1990). Since the early 1980's the per capita consumption of alcohol in the United States has declined by 20% (Williams et al., 1996). During this time period, many states passed legislation referred to as "general deterrence laws" such as raising the legal drinking age to 21 and "specific deterrence laws" such as mandatory license suspension for drivers convicted for driving over the blood alcohol content (BAC) limit. Although such laws appear to have influenced a reduction in alcohol consumption and drunk driving at the national level, the enactment of such laws do not guarantee that they will have an effect at the local level (NIAAA, 2000).

Community norms, attitudes and policies regarding drug use and other antisocial behaviors are communicated to youth and other community inhabitants directly through local laws, law enforcement, and school policies and indirectly through social practices and familial expectations. There is a higher likelihood for youth initiation of these problem behaviors in

communities where standards are either favorable or unclear towards substance use and antisocial behavior.

Risk Indicator: School Policies Regarding Substances

The four target school districts provided copies of their policies regarding substances (see Appendix B). Across school districts the procedures for handling policy violations (e.g., substance use) are similar. The parents and children receive copies of the policies in the school manual and in some cases sign a form that certifies that they have read and understood the school policies.

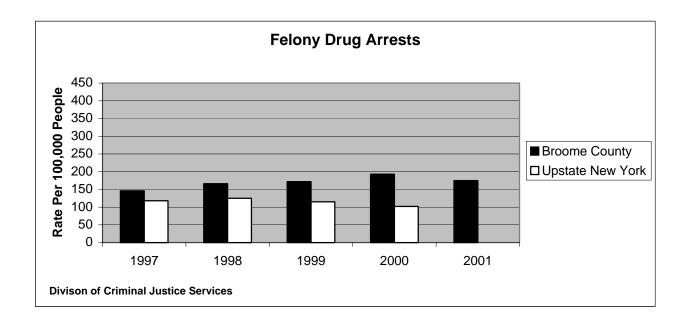
Risk Indicator: School Policies Regarding Violence and the Presence of Weapons

Antisocial behavior frequently co-occurs with substance abuse (e.g., interpersonal violence). Similar to school policies regarding substance use, each school district has a specific policy regarding other antisocial behaviors. There are clear methods for dealing with violence and weapons in each school district presented in Appendix B.

Risk Indicator: Adult Arrests for Drug Related Crimes

Problem behavior in adults is related to problem behavior in youth. The number of adult arrests for drug related crimes may indicate community norms that are favorable to drug use and other antisocial behaviors and also reflects neighborhood disorganization. The figure below presents the rates of adult

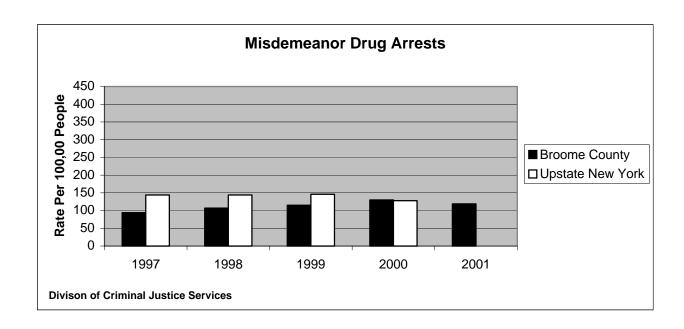
arrests for drug related crimes during the years 1997 through 2001 for Broome County and Upstate New York.



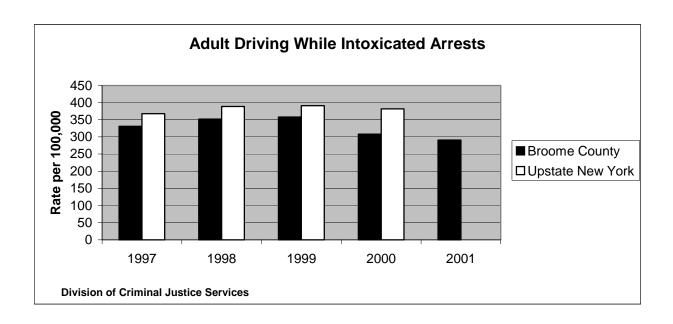
Broome County and Upstate New York showed opposite trends in felony drug arrests. The rates of felony drug arrests in Broome County substantially increased from 1997 to 2000, whereas the rate for Upstate New York declined since 1998. Compared to Upstate New York averages, Broome County had elevated rates of felony drug arrests throughout this period. The increase in these arrests for Broome County most likely indicates that drug activity in the area has increased, but may also reflect an increase in surveillance by local law enforcement. In 2001, there was an approximate 12% decrease in the number of felony drug arrests in Broome County, but it is too early to discern whether this

indicates the start of a declining trend for Broome County. The results for Upstate New York were not available for 2001.

The following graph depicts the rates of misdemeanor drug arrests for Broome County compared to Upstate New York. Similar to the felony drug arrest trend, between 1997 and 2000, Broome County experienced an increase in misdemeanor drug arrest rates, whereas rates for Upstate New York have remained relatively stable. The upward trend in misdemeanor drug arrests, similar to the relatively recent incline in felony arrests may reflect increased drug activity, increased surveillance by local police or both. The results for Upstate New York were unavailable for 2001.

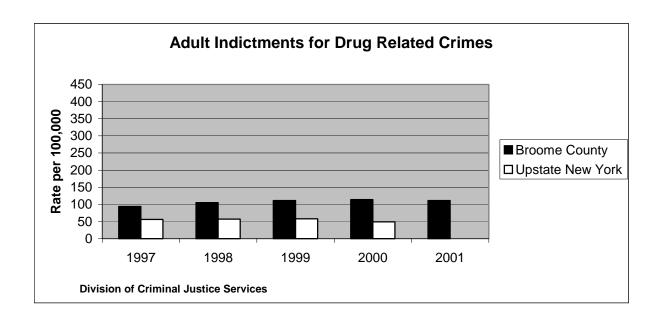


Although below the rate for Upstate New York, Broome County has shown a parallel trend in arrest rates for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). The rate of arrests increased between 1995 and 1999 (Broome County Comprehensive Risk Profile, 2002), most likely indicating policy changes at the local level, whereas subsequent years have shown stabilizing and declining trends. Broome County rates have fallen below Upstate New York rates between 1997-2000. The extent to which the decreasing number of DWI arrests reflects decreased drunk driving is unknown. The results for Upstate New York were unavailable for 2001.



Risk Indicator: Indictments

The rate of drug arrests in a given community may represent the extent to which local norms are favorable to drug use. For example, high rates of drug arrests in one community versus another may indicate that the community with the higher rates has more inhabitants using drugs or it may indicate stricter enforcement of local laws. Likewise it is possible that low rates of indictments reflect a disinclination to enforce existing laws or fewer individuals within that community use drugs. The figure below presents the rate of felony indictments from 1997 to 2001 in Broome County compared to Upstate New York. The data for Upstate New York was unavailable for 2001.



Higher rates of indictment for felony drug crimes were seen in Broome County compared to Upstate New York, with both showing an increase in indictment rates from 1995 to 2000 (Broome County Comprehensive Risk Profile, 2002). Since 1998, Broome County rates appeared stable, and by 2000, Broome County had more than twice the indictment rates of Upstate New York. From these data it appears that Broome County courts readily indict individuals charged with drug-related crimes. These data may indicate that there was an increase in drug-related crimes in Broome County or more effective prosecution of these crimes.

Summary for Community Laws and Norms

- Each of the four school districts has published policies regarding substance use and violence that are provided to parents and students.
- Compared to the decrease in felony arrests for drug related crimes in
 Upstate New York, the rate for Broome County increased between
 1997 and 2000, which suggests an increase in drug activity.
- □ The rates for felony, misdemeanor, and DWI arrests appeared to decrease between 2000 and 2001. This may indicate less drug-related activity in Broome County, although adjusted rates were not available, nor were the number of arrests for 2002.
- Indictment rates for adult drug-related crime in Broome County have increased since 1997 and have remained relatively stable over the past three years. These data indicate a positive trend for drugrelated law enforcement.
- Broome County's increase in felony charges for drug offenses and increased rates of indictments for these offenses may be influenced by several variables, and the extent to which any of these have affected these rates is not clear.

3. RISK FACTOR: TRANSITIONS AND MOBILITY

Transitions to new environments (e.g., moving from one neighborhood to the next) are related to problem behaviors. One possible contributor to this relationship is that individuals do not have established bonds in the new environment compared to the old. Transitions also include going from middle school to high school, changing school districts, and migration on a more massive scale.

Risk Indicator: Net Migration

Broome County, since 1990, has experienced the second largest population decline of 62 counties in New York State. The US Census estimated a decrease of 5.5% in Broome County's population between 1990 and 1999, whereas Empire State development estimated a 7.9% decline. Despite the estimated increase between 1999 and 2000, the population continues to decrease. Refer to the figure on page 7, Population Patterns in Broome County, for a summary of Broome County's population emigration. With the loss of manufacturing jobs and stable unemployment rates, a reversal in the near future is unlikely.

Risk Indicator: School Transitions

Representatives from the four target school districts reported that there seemed to be much movement among local school districts. For example a family in Johnson City might relocate to lower- or higher-cost housing in another district. Although data were not available describing movement from one target school district to the next, the school districts of Binghamton and Johnson City provided the following information.

Students Entering and Leaving the Johnson City School District 1997-2002				
School Year	Students Entering	Students Leaving		
1997-1998	254	279		
1998-1999	303	315		
1999-2000	243	311		
2000-2001	275	309		
2001-2002	235	264		

Johnson City School District, Phone (607) 763-1230

Students (Grades 9-12) Leaving the Binghamton City School District 1997-2002			
School Year	Students Leaving		
1997-1998	379		
1998-1999	352		
1999-2000	374		
2000-2001	344		
2001-2002	361		

Binghamton City Central School District, Phone (607) 762-8100

Approximately 10% of Johnson City's student population left the district during the academic year 2001-2002, whereas a slightly lower percentage of new students entered the school district. In Binghamton, nearly one fifth of the high school student body left the school district during the same academic year. Since Johnson City figures include students across grade levels, and Binghamton's reports were of high school students only, comparisons between school districts were not possible. However, it is clear that a relatively large proportion of students leave each of these districts in a given academic year. Data were not available for Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott.

Summary for Transitions and Mobility

- Broome County has the second largest population decline in New
 York State, which is influenced by fewer employment
 opportunities and other indicators of economic deprivation.
- Many of the students in Johnson City and Binghamton are adjusting to new environments and may be at risk for problem behaviors.

4. RISK FACTOR: LOW NEIGHBORHOOD ATTACHMENT AND COMMUNITY DISORGANIZATION

When individuals feel little or no connection to their community or when a community is in disarray, higher rates of substance abuse and other antisocial behaviors may be present. Indicators of community disorganization include the presence of graffiti, abandoned buildings and drug activity. If a community's inhabitants do not believe that they can impact the state of their neighborhood, they are more likely to feel less attached to it. In contrast, high neighborhood attachment is related to greater levels of participation and investment in the community.

A greater level of neighborhood disorganization (i.e., high population density, lack of natural surveillance of public places, high residential mobility, physical deterioration, and high rates of adult crime) contributes to substance use among youth. According to the OASAS PRISMS 2001 report, Community Disorganization is higher in Broome County than New York State (NYS), excluding New York City (NYC). In the Urbanicity category, 71.4% of Broome County is urban (number of persons per square mile) compared to 44.4% for NYS, excluding NYC.

Risk Indicator: Registered Voters

One measure of neighborhood attachment is the number of individuals within a community who register to vote. The tables below present the number and percentage of adults registered and adults who actually voted in local and county elections and the number who participated in congressional and presidential elections.

Local and County Voter Turnout					
	1995	1997	1999	2001	
Registered					
Adults	106,657	117,675	115,899	112,060	
% of Adults					
Registered	65	72	71	N/A	
Number Voting					
	37,049	46,983	23,454	40,105	
Voter as % of					
Registered	35	40	20	36	
Voter as % of					
Adults	23	29	14	N/A	

Broome County Board of Elections, Phone: 607-778-2172 Fax: 607-778-2174

There was a dramatic decrease in local and county voter turnout during the 1999 election year. The extent to which these results were explained by the national political scandals of the time or other reasons was not clear.

Congressional Voter Turnout					
	1996	1998	2000	2002	
Registered					
Adults	121,842	117,763	119,428	110,393	
% of Adults					
Registered	74	72	73	N/A	
Number Voting					
	88,286	70,852	88,011	66,604	
Voter as % of					
Registered	72	60	74	60	
Voter as % of					
Adults	54	43	54	N/A	

Broome County Board of Elections, Phone: 607-778-2172 Fax: 607-778-2174

Over the past eight years, the percentage of registered voters has varied according to election year. A much greater proportion of registered voters have turned out for the congressional and presidential elections. Although higher rates of voting during the congressional and presidential elections may reflect the belief that federal policies, legislation, and decision-making will be more likely to influence individuals and the community compared to local and state, it is more likely that heavy media coverage and television advertisements of congressional and presidential elections serves to motivate registered voters to go to the polls.

The following two tables present voter registration and turnout for local and county, as well as congressional and presidential elections for the target areas of Binghamton, Endicott and Johnson City. The voter registration and

turnout for Endwell cannot be calculated since Endwell is a part town, meaning it is comprised of various subunits rather than a geographic demarcation based on school district.

Local and County Voter Turnout by BCYPP Target Area				
	1997	1999	2001	
	Bingh	amton		
Registered	26,279	24,839	24,697	
Voted	12,195	14,404	10,879	
	Johnso	on City		
Registered	8,803	8,393	8,398	
Voted	4,114	5,878	3,020	
	End	well		
Registered				
Voted				
Endicott				
Registered	6,943	6,681	6,623	
Voted	2,743	2,000	2,651	

Broome County Board of Elections, Phone: 607-778-2172 Fax: 607-778-2174

Congressional Voter Turnout by BCYPP Target Area				
	1998	2000	2002	
	Bingh	amton		
Registered	25,713	25,479	24,007	
Voted	15,123	18,280	12,243	
	Johnso	on City		
Registered	8,726	8,609	8,448	
Voted	5,184	6,333	4,311	
	End	well		
Registered				
Voted				
Endicott				
Registered	6,833	6,771	6,303	
Voted	3,887	4,855	3,244	

Broome County Board of Elections, Phone: 607-778-2172 Fax: 607-778-2174

Across the three target areas, the numbers of residents registered to vote was stable over an eight-year period. The percentage of registered voters casting ballots was different for each target area and year. For example, there was lower overall turnout in 1999 across Broome County. However, Binghamton and Johnson City had a substantial increase in the proportion of

voters who turned out compared to the last local and county election year whereas Endicott had lower voter turnout. The increase in voter turnout for Binghamton and Johnson City during a year when there was an overall decrease, suggests positive neighborhood attachment.

Risk Indicator: Adult Crime Rates

Other indicators of Community Disorganization include high rates of adult crime, including drug use. The OASAS PRISMS 2001 report indicated that Broome County had lower levels of arrests for violent crime, but that property crime and other crime arrests rates were higher than NYS averages.

Adult Arrest Rates for Broome County and NYS

Adult Crime Indicators	Broome County	NYS
	Rate per	10,000
Property Crime Arrest Rate	73.0	57.6
Other Arrests (arson, kidnapping, sex offenses)	289.5	211.5

OASAS PRISMS 2001

Risk Indicator: Community Alcohol and Drug Abuse Exposure

The PRISMS report also indicated that Community Alcohol and other Substance Abuse Exposure was higher in Broome County than NYS. The number of adults within a community who engage in substance abuse, who

seek treatment for substance abuse problems and who are ordered to treatment by the courts may serve as an indicator of drug use exposure within the community and in some cases within the more immediate environments of children such as familial and school. The following table presents indicators of Adult Substance Abuse for Broome County compared to NYS.

Indicators of Adult Drug Problems in Broome County and NYS

Adult Drug Indicators	Broome County	NYS
3	Rate per	10,000
Drug Arrests	51.9	42.5
DUI Arrests	1.1	2.0
Drug Related Hospital Diagnosis	53.7	45.5
Probation Cases: Use of Offense	13.3	11.1
Probation Cases: Court Mandates	64.8	45.9
Mental Health AOD Indications	19.7	16.5
Alcohol Related Death	1.1	1.2
Alcohol Related Discharge Diagnosis	14.1	11.8
OASAS Alcohol Treatment	48.6	50.6

OASAS PRISMS 2001

Summary for Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community

Disorganization:

- As expected, a greater proportion of voters turn out for congressional and presidential elections compared to local and county elections.
- Despite a decrease in Broome County voter turnout in 1999, the turnout for this local and county election increased in Binghamton and Johnson City, most likely reflecting strong neighborhood attachment in those communities.
- Voting rates appear to reflect positive neighborhood attachment among community residents.
- Compared to the New York State, excluding New York City (NYS),
 Broome County has greater population density that contributes risk associated with community disorganization.
- Net migration rates as well as information pertaining to students moving in or out of local school districts suggest high rates of residential mobility in Broome County.
- Broome County has higher rates of adult arrests for property crimes and other crimes than NYS, which may expose youth to a greater level of nonviolent antisocial behavior in their local communities.

- Broome County adults have elevated rates of drug arrests, probation mandates, and increased rates of hospital related drug diagnoses than NYS suggesting that drug use other than alcohol is a problem in the adults in Broome County and potentially exposes children to drugs through adult drug use and related activities.
- □ Indicators of community disorganization suggest that it is a problematic risk factor for Broome County.

5. RISK FACTOR: EXTREME ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION

Poverty is associated with poor outcome for youth. Youth who live below the poverty line are at a much greater risk for development of problem behavior. These children experience extreme economic deprivation. Data that serve as indicators of economic distress were obtained for New York State (NYS), excluding New York City, and for Oneida County, which serves as a comparison county based on industrial, economic and population changes similar to Broome County.

Risk Indicator: Children Living Below Poverty

The number of children living below poverty, receiving food stamps and public assistance are indices of severe economic deprivation. The following table presents indicators of economic deprivation for Broome County, a comparison county and NYS.

	Living Below Poverty Level	Receiving Food Stamps	Receiving Public Assistance	Receiving SSI
Broome County				
1995	19.7%	18.3%	12.6%	1.7%
2000	21.8%	9.7%	5.7%	1.7%
Comparison Co	unty			
1995	22.4%	18.8%	10.7%	1.9%
2000	23.3%%	14.9%	6.5%	1.6%
New York State	(Excluding NYC)			
1995	15.8%	12.8%	9.0%	1.3%
2000	17.0%	7.9%	4.5%	1.1%

Touchstones/Kids Count 2002 Data Book

Between 1995 and 2000 the number of children living below poverty level slightly increases across all three geographic regions. Conversely, the percentage of children receiving food stamps and public assistance dramatically decreased in each of these areas between 1995 and 2000. Although the percentage of children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) have remained relatively consistent, from these data, it is clear that fewer children who live below poverty are receiving assistance. The decrease in public assistance and food stamps may be a result of welfare policy changes at state or national levels. Both Broome and the comparison county had elevated rates of children living in poverty compared to NYS, which is consistent with the

industrial and economic changes in these areas. The local implications of these data are that a greater number and percentage of children in Broome County are at risk for development of problem behavior due to severe economic deprivation.

Risk Indicator: Individuals Living Below Poverty

One way to measure extreme economic deprivation for a given community is to examine the number of individuals living below the poverty line, an income threshold that is created by the federal government based on family size. The following table shows the percentage of individuals who lived below the poverty line across the nation, in NYS, Broome County and communities that comprise the four target school districts.

Individuals Below Poverty Level (Poverty Status in 1999)						
	Individuals	18 Years and Over	65 Years and Over	Related Children Under 18 Years	Related Children 5-17 Years	Unrelated Individuals 15 Years and Over
Binghamton						
City	23.7 %	22.2 %	10.3 %	28.4 %	26.1 %	35.8 %
Binghamton Town	5.3 %	4.4 %	3.5 %	7.5 %	5.9 %	11.8 %
Endicott Village	18.7 %	16.3 %	1.07 %	26.0 %	26.9 %	25.2 %
Endwell CDP	5.0 %	4.7 %	2.7 %	6.1 %	6.3 %	11.1 %
Johnson City Village	16.0 %	13.1 %	6.1 %	26.5 %	23.2 %	22.5 %
Maine Town	5.9 %	5.1 %	5.6 %	8.3 %	5.7 %	9.4 %
Union Town	11.3 %	9.7 %	6.0 %	16.4 %	14.8 %	19.6 %
Broome County	12.8 %	11.7 %	7.2 %	15.9 %	14.4 %	25.4 %
New York State	14.6 %	12.8 %	11.3 %	19.6 %	19.1 %	24.0 %
United States	12.4 %	10.9 %	9.9 %	16.1 %	15.4 %	22.7 %

US Census Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000

Compared to the nation, the proportion of individuals living below poverty is similar, however, Binghamton City has nearly twice the rate of the nation and county, with highest elevations for related children under age 18 and unrelated individuals over age fifteen. Likewise rates of poverty for related children were elevated in Endicott and Johnson City. Conversely, Maine, Endwell and the town of Binghamton had a much lesser proportion of

individuals living below the poverty line than the other target communities, New York State and the nation. Strikingly, Binghamton City had more than four times the rate of individuals living below the poverty line than Endwell.

In order to examine the extent to which children in Broome County are affected by economic hardship, the number of families with children living below the poverty line, and families with a female as the single head of household are presented on the tables below.

Families below Poverty Level (Poverty Status in 1999)				
	Families related children related		Families with related children under 5 years	
Binghamton City	16.5 %	25.7 %	34.5 %	
Binghamton Town	4.3 %	7.9 %	10.2 %	
Endicott Village	15.4 %	23.3 %	22.8 %	
Endwell CDP	3.9 %	6.4 %	5.5 %	
Johnson City Village	11.6 %	20.7 %	30.2 %	
Maine Town	4.5 %	7.0 %	24.2 %	
Union Town	8.3 %	14.1 %	19.4 %	
Broome County	8.8 %	14.4 %	19.8 %	
New York State	11.5 %	16.9 %	20.2 %	
United States	9.2 %	13.6 %	17.0 %	

US Census Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000

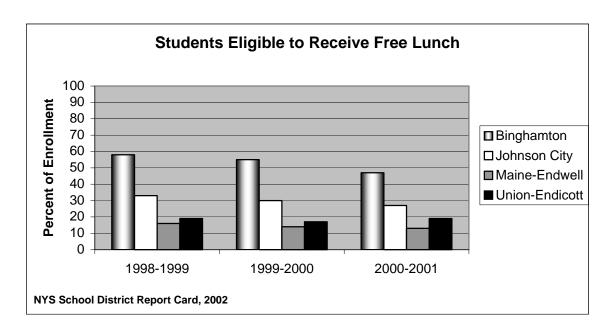
Families With Female Householder, No Husband Present (Poverty Status in 1999, below poverty level)				
	Families	Families with related children under 18 years	Families with related children under 5 years	
Binghamton City	34.4 %	45.8 %	58.2 %	
Binghamton Town	12.0 %	18.2 %	43.8 %	
Endicott Village	30.3 %	38.3 %	53.4 %	
Endwell CDP	19.8 %	30.5 %	28.4 %	
Johnson City Village	30.2 %	40.9 %	56.2 %	
Maine Town	19.8 %	27.4 %	100.0 %	
Union Town	24.8 %	33.8 %	51.1 %	
Broome County	26.5 %	36.5 %	52.5 %	
New York State	29.2 %	38.8 %	49.8 %	
United States	26.5 %	34.3 %	46.4 %	

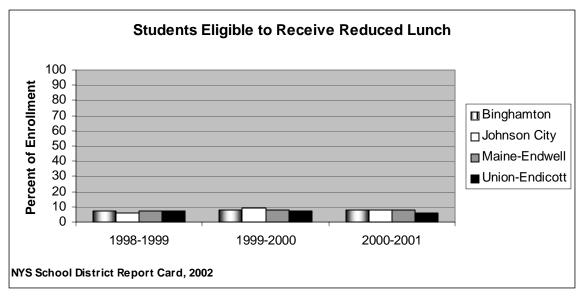
US Census Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000

The percentages of families with related children under five years old and families with related children under 18 years old below the poverty line in Binghamton City, Endicott, and Johnson City were elevated compared to rates for the county, the state and the nation. Strikingly, all of the families residing in the town of Maine, with related children under five years old, live below the poverty line.

Risk Indicator: Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunches

The following figures show the percentage of students enrolled in each school district who are eligible for either free or reduced lunches at school.

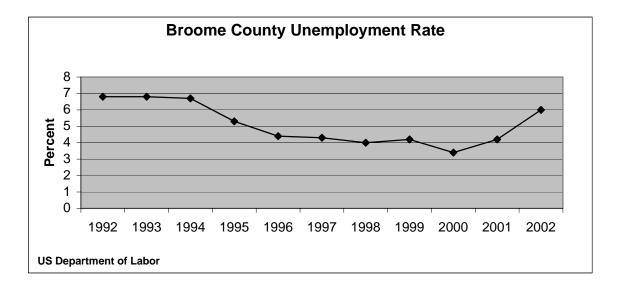




Consistent with poverty data, a greater proportion of students from the Binghamton City and Johnson City school districts are eligible for free lunches compared to the other two school districts. The percentage of students, qualifying for reduced lunch rates, was comparable across school districts and relatively stable.

Risk Indicator: Unemployment

As seen in the figure below the unemployment rate for Broome County decreased substantially 1992 to 2000. This decrease has been followed by an increase from 3.4 to 6.0 for 2000 to 2002. The unemployment rates are comparable to those of NYS and the comparison county.



Summary for Extreme Economic Deprivation:

- Poverty rates for Binghamton City, Johnson City and Endicott village are greater than those for Broome County, New York State and the nation.
- □ The prevalence of children living in economic deprivation plasces

 Broome County youth at risk for early initiation of problem behavior.
- Consistent with the other economic deprivation indicators, Binghamton has the highest percent of students who are eligible for the Free Lunch Program. The percentage of students eligible has decrease by 10% from the 1998-1999 to the 2000-2001 academic years.
- However, across the districts there is a very minimal difference in the percent of students who are eligible to receive reduced lunch. The percentage of students eligible has remained stable from the 1998-1999 to the 2000-2001 academic years.
- The unemployment rate has increased in Broome County from 2000 to 2002. This pattern, in conjunction with other indicators of poverty, suggests an increasing contribution of economic deprivation to risk associated with early initiation of problem behavior.

6. RISK FACTOR: FAMILY HISTORY OF PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

The extent to which children are at risk for early initiation of problem behavior is to a large extent determined by the family environment in which they are raised. For example, children in families with a history of addiction and antisocial/criminal behavior are at risk for developing these problems.

Risk Indicator: Adults in Alcohol or Other Drug Treatment Programs

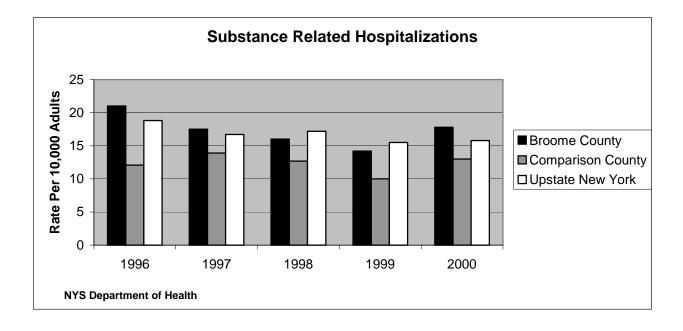
Children with family histories of substance abuse are at greater risk of developing this problem behavior. The number of adults within a community who seek treatment for substance problems may be one indicator of family history. The table below presents the number of Broome County residents who sought treatment from OASAS licensed programs between 1996 and 2000.

	Type of Treatment			
Year	Residential	Outpatient	Inpatient	Detoxification
1996	163	1074	409	1114
1997	176	647	91	1313
1998	222	803	276	1664
1999	227	861	284	1612
2000	197	810	333	1308

New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (2000)

The number of admissions for each form of treatment has remained relatively stable over the past three years. Typically, detoxification is the steppingstone to other treatment modalities. The rates for detoxification may include those who were later admitted to outpatient and residential settings.

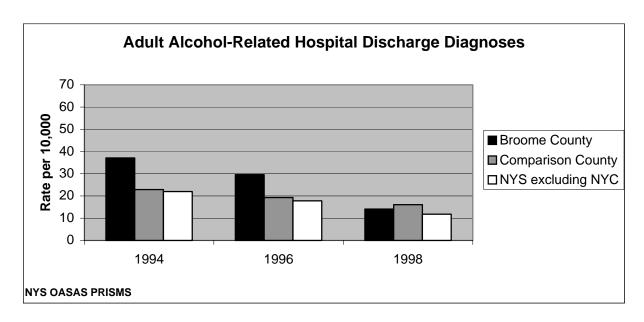
Substance related hospitalizations provide an additional index of adult substance abuse treatment. The following figure illustrates Broome County, a comparison county and Upstate New York substance related hospitalizations from 1996-2000.

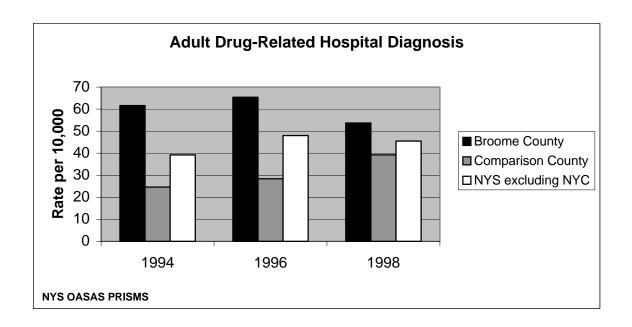


Broome County rates of substance related hospitalizations showed a downward trend between 1996 and 1999 with a 28.6% increase in 2000. The comparison county showed a comparable trend while Upstate New York rates remained

relatively stable. Relative to the comparison county substance related hospitalization rates in Broome County were elevated. These results may reflect higher rates of substance related problems in Broome County or more inpatient resources relative to the comparison county, among other possible reasons.

The following figures depict adult alcohol and drug discharge diagnoses for Broome County, the comparison county, and New York State (NYS), excluding New York City (NYC).



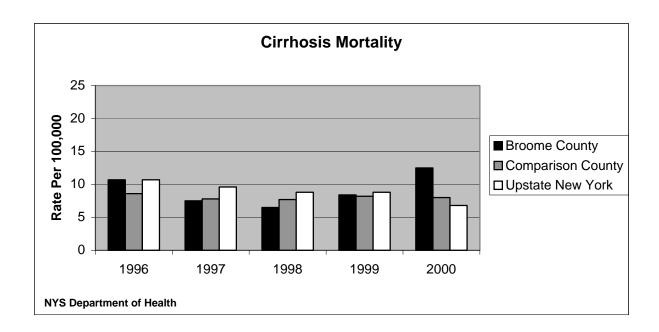


For Broome County there has been a decline in rates of alcohol related diagnoses upon hospital discharge, while the rates of adults diagnosed with drug related diagnosis upon hospital discharge have remained fairly stable. The decrease in alcohol related diagnoses upon discharge from hospitalization between 1996 and 1998 for Broome County might have resulted from decreases in inpatient treatment utilization. These patterns are similar to the comparison county and NYS, excluding NYC, for adult alcohol related hospital diagnoses. However, for drug related hospital diagnoses NYS, excluding NYC, and Broome County display a similar pattern while the comparison county shows an increased level. Overall the rates for Broome County are elevated when

compared to NYS, excluding NYC, and the comparison county in 1994, by 1998 the rates between the three were more similar.

Risk Indicator: Cirrhosis Mortality

Cirrhosis, a disease of the liver, is most often related to a history of substance use. The following figure depicts Broome County, a comparison county and Upstate New York cirrhosis mortality rates from 1996-2000. Since 1998 Cirrhosis mortality rates have markedly increased for Broome County, remains stable for the comparison county, whereas the Upstate New York rates decreased. Increases in Cirrhosis mortality rates may reflect substance abuse associated with economic deprivation.



Risk Indicator: Educational Attainment

Substance use problems may contribute to and result from low educational attainment. Failure to complete high school may be a consequence of problem behavior. Compared to individuals who drop out of school, those who stay in school have better outcomes. The table below presents levels of education attainment for adults in Broome County compared to New York State and the nation.

Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Over)				
	United States	New York State	Broome County	
Less than 9 th grade	7.5%	8.0%	5.1%	
9 th -12 th grade, no diploma	12.1%	12.9%	11.1%	
High school graduate (includes equivalency	28.6%	27.8%	32.7%	
Some college, no degree	21.0%	16.8%	18.3%	
Associate Degree	6.3%	7.2%	10.1%	
Bachelor's Degree	15.5%	15.6%	12.6%	
Graduate or professional degree	8.9%	11.8%	10.1%	

US Census American Fact Finder – Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000

A greater proportion of Broome County residents over age 25 have completed high school compared to the state and the nation. Although a lower percentage of individuals graduated with a bachelor's degree, Broome County has a higher rate of residents with associate's degrees compared to the state and the nation and a slightly lower rate of residents with graduate degrees compared to the state. The higher rates in associate degrees possibly reflect a strong community college system, fewer jobs that require bachelor degrees in the area, and affordability of colleges that offer higher degrees.

The following table presents educational attainment for individuals residing in the target communities.

Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Over)					
	Less Than a 9 th Grade Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
Binghamton City	8.0 %	78.1 %	21.3 %		
Binghamton Town	2.5 %	91.0 %	29.4 %		
Endicott Village	7.4 %	79.7 %	16.9 %		
Endwell CDP	2.9 %	97.2 %	31.2 %		
Johnson City Village	6.1 %	81.7 %	20.1 %		
Maine Town	5.4 %	82.3 %	18.3 %		
Union Town	5.0 %	84.8 %	23.5 %		

US Census Language, School Enrollment, Educational Attainment: 2000

Binghamton City, Endicott, and Johnson City had higher rates of individuals who did not complete the 12th grade compared to the other communities comprising the target school districts, and were represented by a lower proportion of college graduates. These findings may also be reflected in the elevations in poverty rates for Binghamton and Johnson City.

Summary for Family History of Problem Behavior

- Broome County substance related hospitalization rates increased by nearly thirty percent and surpassed rates for the comparison county and Upstate New York in 2000.
- □ Broome County rates for inpatient drug and alcohol treatment increased by 15% from 1999 to 2000.
- Outpatient treatment utilization rates have remained stable in Broome County.
- □ As expected, rates for detoxification greatly exceed those of other treatments.
- □ Cirrhosis-related deaths in Broome County increased by approximately forty percent in 2000, continuing the upward trend.
- Elevated rates of cirrhosis mortality in Broome and the comparison counties may reflect higher rates of long standing substance dependence problems.
- Educational attainment for the communities comprising the target areas mirrors the poverty statistics; Binghamton City, Johnson City and Endicott Village have higher rates of high school drop out.

7. RISK FACTOR: FAMILY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Family management problems range from poor communication about behavioral expectations of children to harsh punishment practices and may influence the susceptibility of youth to substance abuse. According to the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) PRISMS 2001 Report, the category of Family Dysfunction is higher in Broome County than New York State (NYS), excluding New York City (NYC). The following table presents a summary view of the Risk Indicators that comprise this category.

Broome County Family Dysfunction Indicators Compared to New York State, excluding New York City (1998)				
Family Dysfunction Indicators*	Broome County	NYS		
	Rates Pe	er 10,000		
Foster Care Admissions	44.2	28.1		
Children in Foster Care	86.9	49.6		
Mandated Preventive Services Case Openings	91.3	74.1		
Child Protective Services (CPS) Indicated Cases	119.1	101.3		
CPS Reported Cases by Mandated Reporters	273.5	182.1		
Total CPS Reports Received	490.8	331.0		
Divorces	120.7	116.1		

^{*}OASAS PRISMS 2001

Risk Indicator: Reported Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse (e.g., physical abuse, sexual abuse) and neglect are indicators of family dysfunction. Child abuse is related to poorer outcomes for children, including academic failure, depression and other behavioral disorders and substance abuse. As child abuse most typically occurs in private, it is probably underreported.

Approximately 34% of reports of child mistreatment across the nation are substantiated reports, while the remaining cases were closed without definitive findings. The rate of reports for the nation increased from 3.91 per 10,000 in 1990 to 4.2 in 1997. Within New York State, the child abuse hotline, received 143,712 calls alleging suspected child abuse or neglect in 2000, an increase of 3.9% compared to 1999. Of these reports, 31% were substantiated (http://pac-ny.org/childabuse.html). Broome County report rates were consistent with those of the state and the nation.

Rates of indicated reports of child maltreatment, backed by credible evidence, for Broome County, a comparison county and New York State are presented below for 1996 and 2000. According to the New York State Central Register, the rates of indicated reports for Broome County decreased in 2000 relative to 1996, and were consistently lower than the comparison county rates and those for New York State. The decrease may reflect a decline in child

maltreatment, a slight increase in reluctance on the part of individuals to report suspected child abuse, or the earlier figures may have been a result of increased awareness. It is important to note that the actual rates of child abuse may remain relatively consistent and that the rates of reporting may fluctuate with media coverage, as may the rigor in investigative efforts.

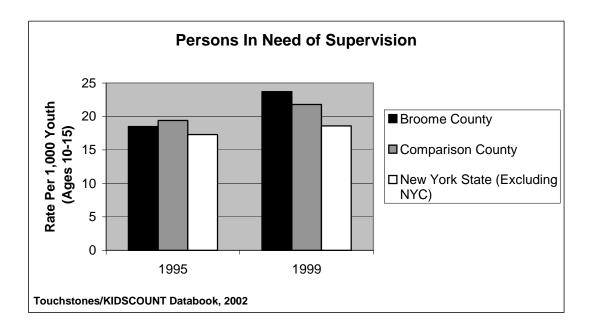
Indicated Reports of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (Rate Per 1,000 Families)		
	1996	2000
Broome County	28.0	25.4
Comparison County	30.6	33.8
New York State (Excluding New York City)	31.8	30.5

Touchstones KIDS/COUNT, 2002

Risk Indicator: Persons in Need of Supervision

Persistent conduct problems in children often indicate family management difficulties. The number of Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) provides an index of non-criminal misconduct for youth ages 10 – 15 years, defined by truancy, persistent disobedience, and incorrigibility. Typically parents or school officials file these complaints with the local probation

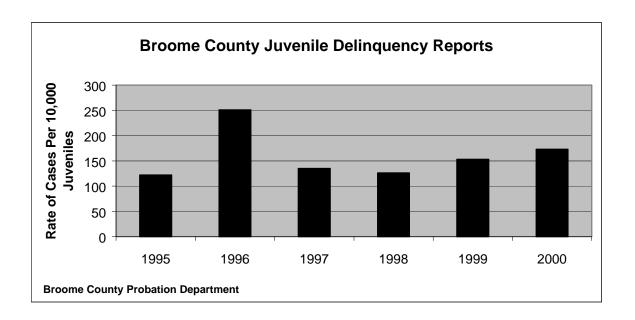
department in order to receive help from family court with these problem behaviors.



Broome County rates of youth with non-criminal conduct problems that were deemed serious enough to report, increased by 28% from 1995 to 1999, and surpassed rates of the comparison county and New York State. This incline may reflect growing numbers of youth exhibiting problem behavior or a decreasing tolerance of problem behavior by parents and schools. Given that these data may suggest that youth problem behavior in Broome County is increasing and should be addressed on family, school and community levels.

Risk Indicator: Juvenile Delinquent Reports

The following figure presents the number of cases of juveniles (ages 7 – 16) who were apprehended by police, issued an appearance ticket and ordered to probation, as well as the rate of cases per 10,000 juveniles (Broome County Probation Department). The order to probation may have resulted in a referral to the County Attorney's Office for possible prosecution as a juvenile delinquent. The graph suggests that following a decrease from 1996 to 1997 the rates of serious crimes committed by Broome County youth have remained relatively consistent since 1997.



Risk Indicator: Family Attitudes Toward Problem Behavior

Parental attitudes and behavior are strongly associated with youth substance abuse. For the purpose of assessing parental attitudes towards substance use and related problem behaviors, the BCYPP mailed a survey to a sample of approximately 4000 parents from the four target school districts and 1064 (28%) were returned. This was a high response rate for a one-time mailing and provided an important source of information about parental attitudes towards the problem behaviors targeted by the BCYPP. A copy of the Parent Survey is provided in Appendix D.

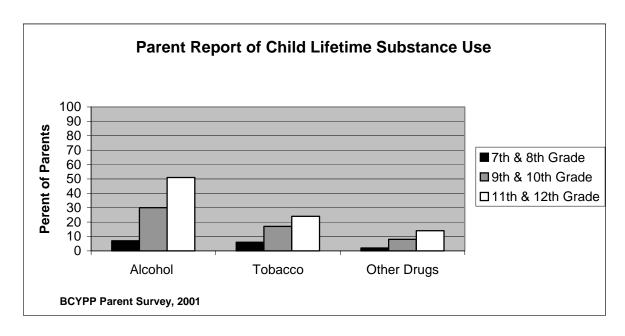
Across the four school districts, parents in Broome County endorsed negative attitudes towards substance use. Most of the parents (86%-99%) reported that they were opposed to substance use, including alcohol, prior to age 21. However, attitudes toward alcohol use were more variable, with the majority of parents (63%) indicating that it would be acceptable for their child to drink "At age 21". As one would expect, parental acceptance of child alcohol use prior to age 21 increased with grade level, with a greater percentage of parents (18%) of high school juniors and seniors (i.e., late high school students) indicating that it was acceptable for their child to drink in "Supervised" or "Responsible" situations compared to 11% and 12% of the parents of middle school and early high school students.

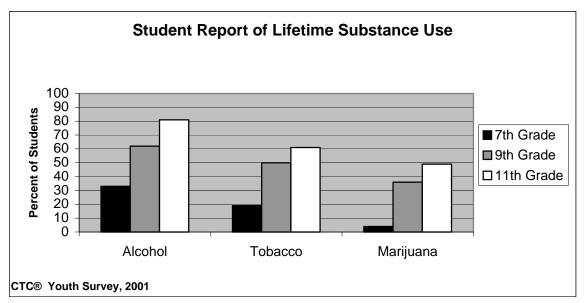
Most parents, in addition to negative attitudes toward youth substance use, perceived that there would be a "Great" (70%) or "Moderate" (27%) risk for harm associated with alcohol use for individuals under 21-years of age. Moreover, the majority of parents rated marijuana use (81%), tobacco use (89%) and other drug use (97%) as having a "Great" risk for harm. Of the parents who did not indicate that a "Great" risk for harm was associated with drugs other than alcohol, 15% of the parents endorsed that marijuana use and 10% endorsed that tobacco use had a "Moderate" risk for harm. Very few parents (1%) responded that there was "No Risk" for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use, and less than 1% of the parents reported that they perceived "No Risk" associated with cigarette and other substance use.

The information provided by the parents was compared to the adolescents' self-report from the CTC Youth Survey, and a large discrepancy was apparent between parent and child reports of substance use. It is important to interpret the actual size of this difference with caution, since the parents who returned the survey may have been systematically different from those who did not.

The majority of parents endorsed that their child either "Never" or only "Once or twice" had used substances such as alcohol (92%), tobacco (94%) and "Other drugs" (98%). However, according to the findings of the CTC Youth

Survey, 37% of students reported having used alcohol in the past thirty days. This underestimate by the parents was relatively consistent across substance categories. The figures below depicts parental estimates of their child's substance use compared the youth self-reports of substance use behavior in Broome County.





The methodology of student and parent survey development and administration differed in several ways. First, the wording of the questions was slightly different. Second, the student sample was not random and consisted of any youth attending school whereas the parent survey, although random, required parents to take their own time to complete and mail it back. Moreover, the parents who returned the surveys may comprise primarily those who were actively involved in their child's lives and whose children may have had lower rates of substance use. Finally, it is important to note that the surveys asked questions about good parenting attitudes and may have elicited a response bias.

Summary for Family Management Problems

- Summary scores for OASAS PRISMS 2001 Family Dysfunction are higher for Broome County compared to NYS:
 - The rates of children admitted to and in foster care are markedly higher in Broome County compared to NYS.
 - Broome County has higher rates of Mandated Preventive Services case openings, Child Protective Services indicted cases and cases reported by mandated reporters compared to NYS.
- □ The rates of indicated child abuse and maltreatment reports were lower than the New York State and the comparison county.
- Rates of youth with non-criminal problem behavior sufficient to warrant family court involvement rose markedly for Broome County between 1995-1999.
- Parents primarily endorsed negative attitudes toward substance use and reported understanding the risks involved but underestimated the prevalence of adolescent substance use.

8. RISK FACTOR: FAMILY CONFLICT

Family environments that are characterized by frequent arguments and physical conflict are associated with poor outcomes in children, such as conduct problems and substance use. Both orders of protection and divorce rates can provide a window for assessment of family discord, although not a perfect one, since many of these behaviors are not reported.

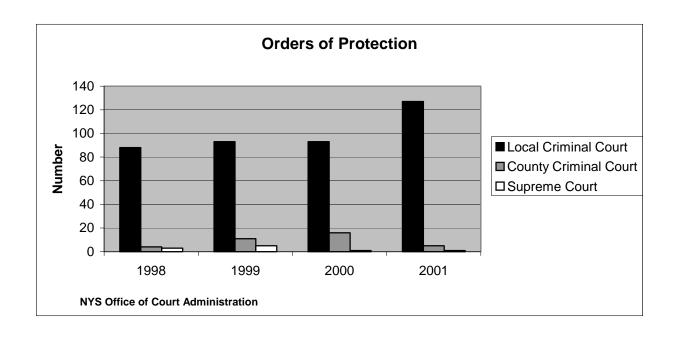
Risk Indicator: Domestic Violence

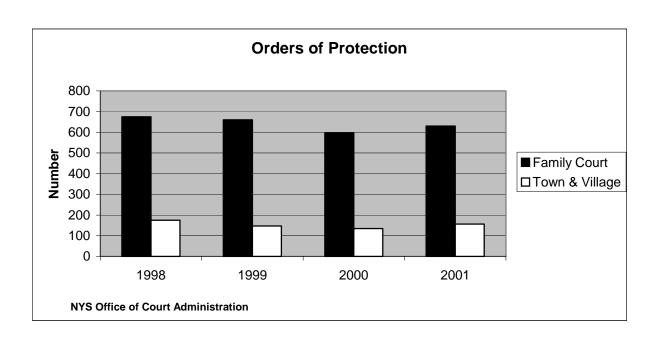
Since family and domestic violence occurs behind closed doors, it tends to be underreported. Domestic violence rates may be calculated from reports of police responding to incidents called in by victims of violence or concerned individuals who suspect or witness violence. However, these rates are influenced by legal policies regarding criteria for arrest. Since 1996, police across New York State have been required to complete a standardized report form to record responses to domestic violence calls. During the years 1997-2000, approximately one out of three suspects who was on the scene when an officer responded, was arrested. In New York State rates of domestic violence on average have been around 85 criminal incidents per 10,000 residents

compared to rates of 59 per 10,000 of other violent crimes (Fernandez-Lanier, Chard-Wierschem, & Hall, 2001).

Risk Indicator: Orders of Protection

When an individual reports a family member for violence or harassment, a local court may issue an order of protection. Orders of protection, issued by Family or other local courts, specify conditions of behavior to be observed by a particular person within a given time frame. In Family Court, orders of protection are perhaps better indicators of family management difficulties compared to orders issued by other courts. The following charts show the number of orders of protection issued in Broome County in a variety of court settings for 1998-2001.

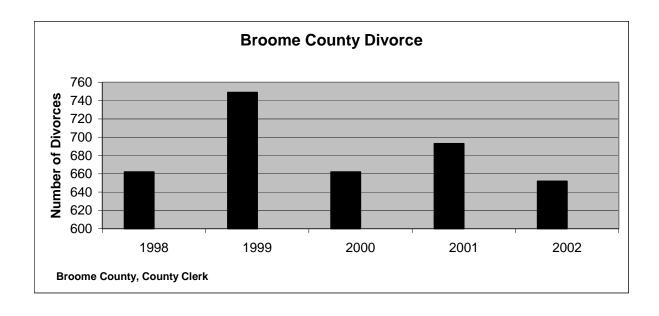




It is important to note that orders of protection may be issued in different courts in response to the same incident. Hence each of the preceding numbers may not have represented a separate event. Orders of protection may also be issued for harassment or threats by individuals not related to the victims. The number of orders of protection issued from Family Courts has remained relatively stable over the past several years.

Risk Indicator: Divorce

The following figure presents the number of divorces in Broome County between 1998-2002. Apart from 1999, when a greater number of divorces were finalized, the numbers have remained fairly consistent. Divorce rates for Broome County were higher than those for NYS in 1998 (see page 55).



Summary for Family Conflict

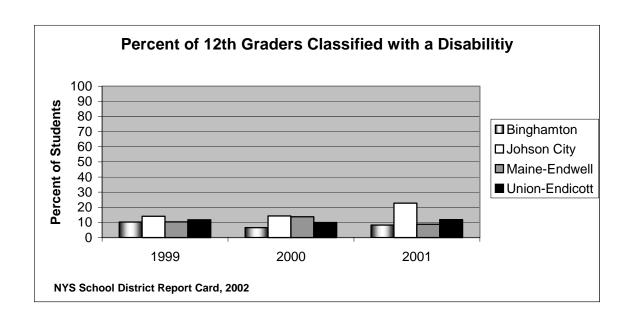
- Although the number of orders of protection in local criminal courts increased in 2001, the degree to which this increase was related to family problems was unknown.
- Orders of protection quantities issued in family courts appear relatively constant.
- □ The number of divorces for Broome County peaked in 1999.
- Divorce rates in Broome County were higher than those for NYS in 1998.

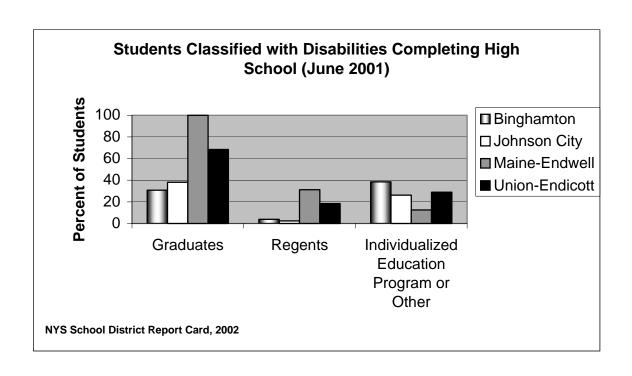
9. RISK FACTOR: EARLY AND PERSISTENT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Problem behaviors frequently emerge in adolescence. Early conduct problems are strongly associated with later antisocial behaviors, including substance abuse. By examining rates of early problem behavior, a community may elect to target reduction and prevention of these behaviors prior to adolescence.

Risk Indicator: Children Classified with Disabilities

Children classified with disabilities (e.g., learning disability, emotional problems) are at greater risk for problem behavior initiation. The figures below present respectively the number of 12th graders classified as having a disability, in each of the four target school districts at the end of the final year of high school and also the number of these students who graduated. It is clear that students with a disability were less likely to graduate from the Binghamton and Johnson City school districts than from Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott. The extent to which the students from the first two school districts have more severe problems than the other districts is unknown.





Summary for Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior

- □ The percent of 12th graders classified with disabilities in the four target school districts has remained fairly stable and equal besides an increase in the Johnson City School District in 2001.
- A greater proportion of students with disabilities complete high school in Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott compared to Binghamton and Johnson City.

10. RISK FACTOR: ACADEMIC FAILURE

Academic achievement is strongly related to youth substance abuse.

Compared to weaker students, students with better performance are more likely

to refrain from substance use. Although the direction of this relationship is not

always clear, or whether other indices of risk mediate this association, rates of

academic achievement comprise a meaningful measure of community risk.

Risk Indicator: Test Scores of English Language Arts and Math

The following graphs below depict the combined percent of 4th and 8th

graders who achieved scores of a level 3 or 4 on the English Language Arts

(ELA) test and the Mathematics test in the four target school districts. These

data were provided by the target school districts and is available to the public.

The levels for the ELA test and the math test are as follows:

Level 1: Substantially below standards

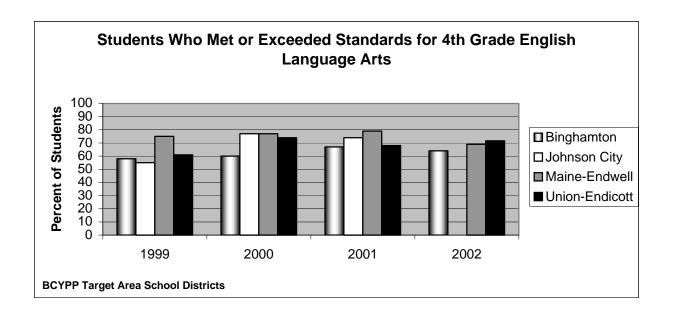
Level 2: Below standards

Level 3: Meets standards

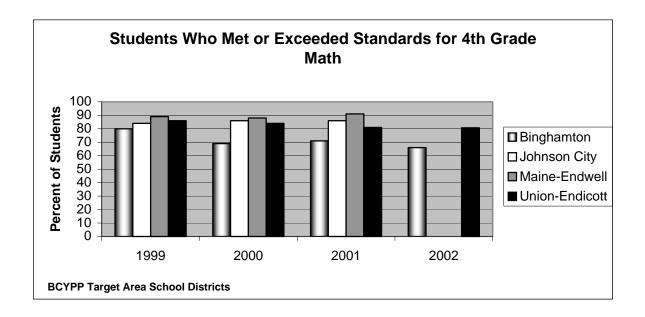
Level 4: Substantially above standards

79

The following figure presents the combined percent of fourth graders who at least met standards for reading and writing skills on the ELA test. Although Johnson City had the lowest percentage of students meeting standards in 1999, this district's rates either matched or surpassed the rates for Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott in subsequent years. However, Binghamton schools, consistent with rates of poverty, had lower proportions of students meeting standards across all time periods. It is important to note that Binghamton results should not be an artifact due to a higher percentage of students speaking languages other than English since students not meeting language acquisition standards are excluded from the test administration. The data were unavailable for Johnson City at the time of this report for 2002.

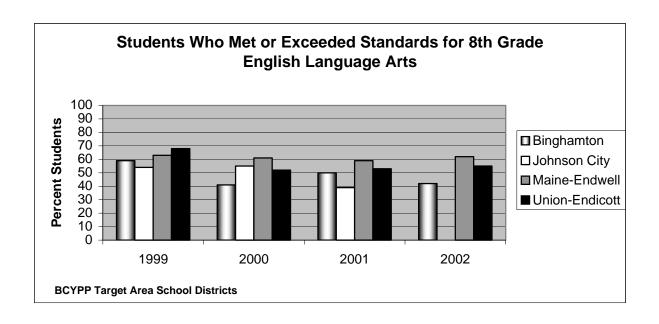


The following figure depicts the proportion of fourth graders in each of the four school districts who at least met quantitative ability standards for their grade level on the standardized Math test. Similar to the results on the ELA test, Binghamton schools had the lowest proportion of students who met or surpassed standards. Data for Johnson City and Maine-Endwell were unavailable at the time of this report for 2002.

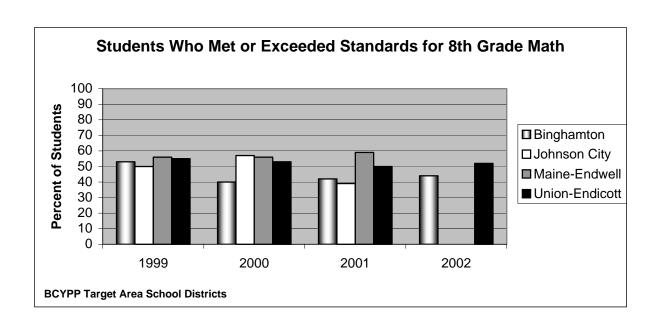


As students progress to the next grade level, the course curriculum becomes more complex and teacher expectations for study habits and work effort become more demanding. In some cases, students with minor learning difficulties are not identified at lower grade levels. Hence one might expect that a slightly lesser proportion of students in the eighth grades compared to the

fourth grades would meet or surpass academic achievement testing standards. The figure below shows the combined percentage of eighth graders who met or surpassed standards on the ELA test. Johnson City had mixed results, reporting the lowest proportion of eighth graders who met expectations in 1999 and 2001. Conversely in 2000, Johnson City rates, despite being slightly lower than Maine-Endwell rates, exceeded those for Union-Endicott, with more than half of the student population meeting or exceeding expectations. Binghamton schools had substantially fewer students meeting expectations in 2000 compared to 1999. All school districts had decreases in the number of students who met or surpassed standards in 2001 compared to 1999 on the ELA. The data were unavailable for Johnson City at the time of this report for 2002.



The patterns for quantitative competence for eighth graders were similar to those of the ELA. The following graph illustrates the proportion of eighth graders who met or surpassed standards on the math test. Consistent with the ELA scores, the proportion of students in Binghamton who at least met standards dropped from 50% in 1999 to 40% in 2000. Johnson City again had mixed results with the greatest proportion of students compared to the other school districts meeting or surpassing standards in 2000, and then a substantial decline in students at least meeting standards in 2001. Data for Johnson City and Maine-Endwell were unavailable at the time of this report for 2002.

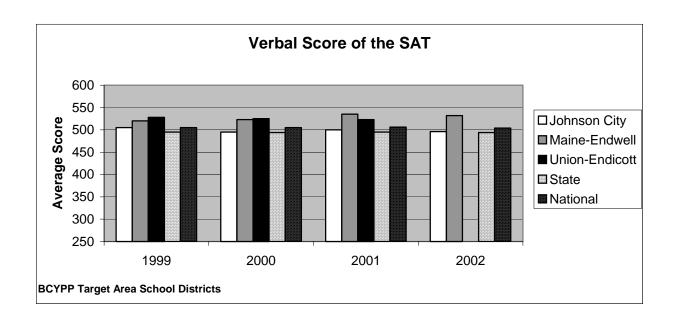


These data should be interpreted with some caution. School district personnel indicated that certain administrative procedures have varied according to state regulations across testing years. For example, one criterion that has changed is whether populations of students with special needs are to be tested.

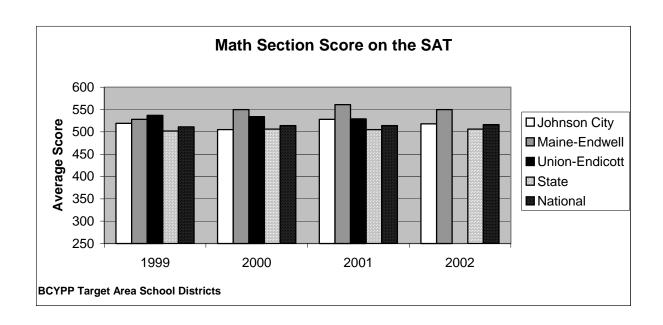
Risk Indicator: SAT Scores

The Standardized Achievement Test (SAT) results for a given school district provides an index of academic achievement for college bound students relative to their colleagues across the state and nation.

The SAT consists of a Verbal section and a Math section. Locally, several trends emerged on the Verbal academic achievement. Average scores from Union-Endicott appear to be declining, whereas the scores for students in Maine-Endwell have dramatically increased and surpassed the other three school districts. Both Union-Endicott and Maine-Endwell have continued to produce higher averages on the Verbal Section of the SAT than did the nation, whereas Johnson City is below the national average over the past four years. Data for Union-Endicott was unavailable for 2002 and for Binghamton across the academic years at the time of this report.



Similar to the SAT Verbal section results, students from Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott had higher average scores on the Math section compared to state and national averages, whereas Johnson City scores fell below Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott and were comparable to the state and nation throughout the past four years. Data for Union-Endicott was unavailable for 2002 and for Binghamton across the academic years at the time of this report.



Summary for Academic Failure

- □ Test scores in Broome County are highly varied across target areas.
- In the eighth grade, compared to the fourth grade, as subject material becomes more complex, there is a general trend across districts for fewer students to meet or exceed standards on English Language Arts and Math tests.
- Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott tend to report test scores above the other target areas suggesting less contribution of the risk factor Academic Failure to the total risk of problem behaviors compared to the other school districts.

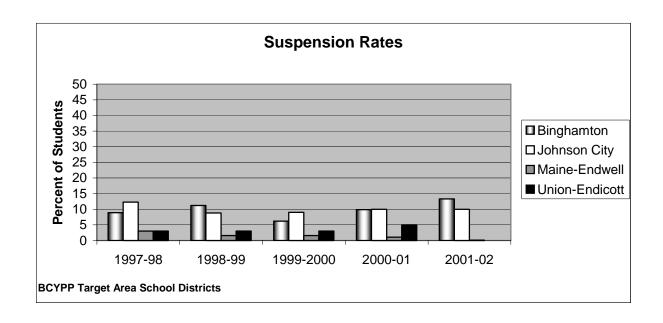
- However, in Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott between 30% and 50% of the eighth graders are not meeting test standards for English Language Arts and Math. In these two school districts, as in Binghamton and Johnson City, decreasing risk associated with Academic Failure remains a challenge.
- Johnson City reported mixed test scores, both favorable and unfavorable relative to the other school districts, depending on the test.
- Binghamton reported test scores below the other target areas and with less than 50% of eighth graders meeting test standards for math, low levels of academic achievement in Binghamton are of concern.

11. RISK FACTOR: LOW COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL

Beyond academic achievement, there are additional factors within the school domain that influence the likelihood of youth substance abuse through increasing risk or protection. The extent to which students feel invested in their schools and are positively reinforced at school for prosocial behavior is related to substance abuse. Those students who are more involved in school activities are less likely to engage in early substance abuse whereas those who are uncommitted to school are more likely to initiate problem behavior.

Risk Indicator: Suspension Rates

Suspension rates provide indices of low school commitment, given that this punishment is used to discourage antisocial behavior in school. The figure below compares suspension rates for the target communities from the academic school year 1997-1998 through 2001-2002.

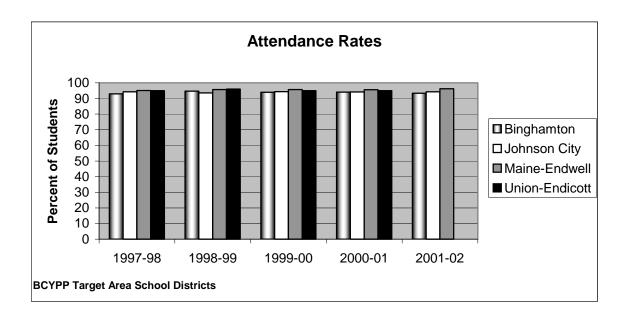


Johnson City and Binghamton suspension rates were higher than those of the other school districts. Data from Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott were unavailable at the time of this report for the academic year 2001-2002.

Risk Indicator: Attendance Rates

Another indication of commitment to school is student attendance. According to New York State Law, all children ages 6-16 who are physically and mentally able, are required to attend school daily. Unexcused absences (i.e., without reasonable explanation) are unlawful. State aid to schools is dependent, to some extent, on attendance rates. Attendance rates are calculated by dividing

the number of student attendance days by the number of student attendance days if every student were present every day. The attendance rates for the target areas were practically equivalent. At the time of this report Union-Endicott data were unavailable for the academic year 2001-2002.

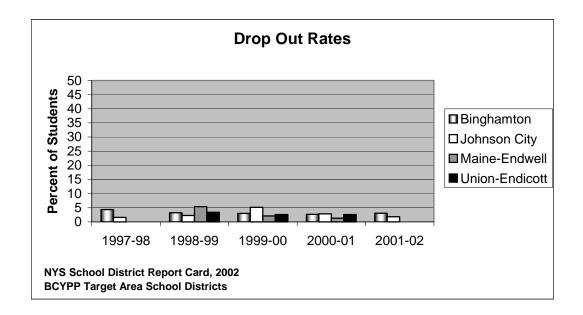


Although attendance rates were high for each school district, suggesting high school commitment, those rates do not account for skipping classes. Although individual class attendance data were not obtainable, verbal reports from school personnel indicate that skipping out of school after being counted and cutting classes is difficult to control. Schools with open campuses (e.g., Binghamton High School with seventeen exits and entrances, Binghamton and

Union-Endicott with open lunches) may not have the resources to monitor these entrances. Likewise, it would be very easy for students who leave during their lunch periods to take the rest of the day off.

Risk Indicator: Dropout Rates

Dropout rates are also an indicator of low commitment to school. The following figure presents Binghamton and Johnson City for the academic years 1997-1996 through 2001-2002 as well as Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott for 1998-1999 through 2000-2001.



Across the four school districts, the dropout rates were relatively stable over the academic years (e.g., between two and three and a half percent of

enrollment) except for Binghamton in 1997-1998, Johnson City in 1999-2000, and Maine-Endwell in 1998-1999. Data were not available for Maine-Endwell or Union-Endicott for the Academic years of 1997-1998 and 2001-2002 at the time of this report.

Summary for Lack of Commitment to School

- Suspension rates are higher for Johnson City and Binghamton compared to the other two districts.
- School attendance rates are functionally the same for all four districts.
- There was an increase in drop out rate for Johnson City from the 1997-1998 through 1999-2000 academic school years. This was followed by a decrease from the 1999-2000 through 2001-2002 academic years.
- Maine-Endwell has shown a decrease in drop out rate from the 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 academic school years, when they went from having the highest rate to the lowest in comparison to the other districts.

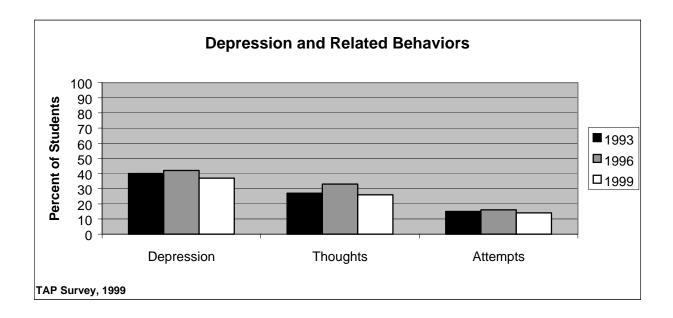
12. RISK FACTOR: ALIENATION AND REBELLIOUSNESS

Individuals who report feelings of alienation, or rebel against their environments, are more likely to engage in deviant behavior including substance abuse. However the direction of the relationships between either alienation or rebelliousness and substance abuse is unclear. Some individuals who feel extremely alienated may numb unpleasant feelings that accompany isolation with alcohol or other drugs. Conversely, alcohol and drug abuse can lead to feelings for alienation and isolation. It is most likely that both scenarios are true: the association is both bi-directional and strong, hence good indices of a community's risk.

Risk Indicator: Depression and Related Behavior

The following figure presents the percentage of students who self-reported feelings of depression in the past six months, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts by Broome County youth on the Teen Assessment Project (TAP) survey in 1993, 1996, and 1999. The TAP survey, completed anonymously, was developed for the purpose of obtaining youth reports about their lives. In 1999, the TAP survey was administered to approximately 2700

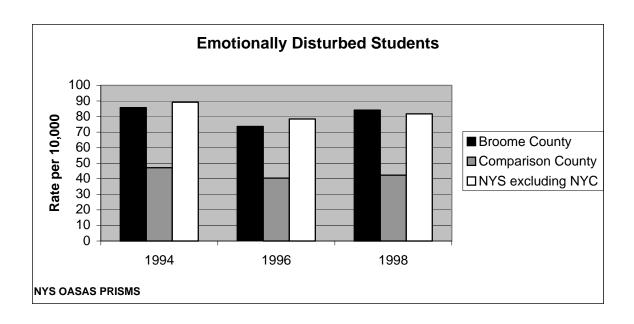
students in participating Broome County schools. Results from the most recent administration in 2002 were not available at the time of this report.



Approximately forty percent of the students reported feeling depressed in the past six months. However, due to the makeup of self-report (pen and pencil) measures of depression elevations in transient distress tend to be captured and do not discriminate well between depression, anxiety and other forms of emotional distress, therefore it is likely that most of these students would not be diagnosed with major depression. Across survey administrations, the proportion of students endorsing feelings of depression, thoughts of suicide and actual suicide attempts was relatively stable.

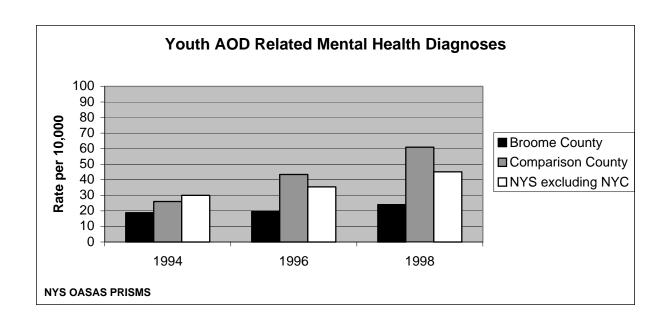
The rates for reported suicide attempts (>10%) appear noteworthy. On this survey, questions were not asked about the lethality of attempts (e.g., taking six aspirin or overdosing to the point that required an emergency room visit or hospitalization). However, the reported rates of suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts in Broome County appeared to be elevated compared to those reported on the 1997 National Household Survey (NHS). On the NHS, depression was reported by 21% of the youth who indicated that they were not using alcohol and by 30% of the youth who reported using. Likewise, suicidal ideation was reported by 8% of the nonusers and 18% of the users. The percentage of Broome County youth that endorsed these problems may or may not be actually greater than that of the youth across the nation. The national figures suggest that depression and suicidal ideation may be more prominent in alcohol using students. It is important to note that the extent of alcohol use in relation to depression and suicidal ideation was not assessed.

Two additional indices may provide insight into emotional and substance use problems among youth in the community, proportion of students labeled as "emotionally disturbed" and rate of youth alcohol and other drug related mental health diagnoses. The following figure presents the rates of students categorized as "emotionally disturbed" in Broome County, a comparison county, and New York State (excluding NYC).



For Broome County there was a downward trend in the rate of students labeled as "emotionally disturbed" from 1994 to 1996. The rate then increased from 1996 to 1998. New York State showed a similar pattern, while the comparison county shows a general decrease over the years. Overall, Broome County has rates similar to New York State, which are elevated in comparison to the comparison county.

The following figure presents the rate at which youth receive alcohol and other drug related mental health diagnoses for Broome County, a comparison county, and New York State excluding New York City.



Risk Indicator: Suicide Rates

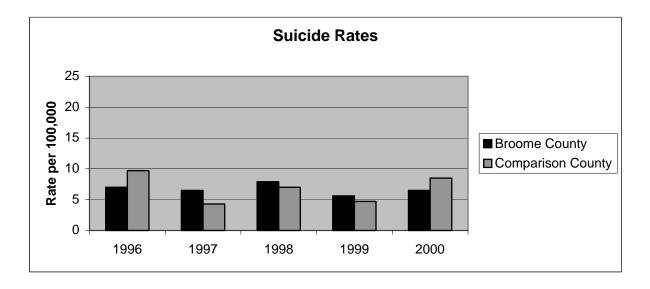
One index of extreme alienation is suicide. The table below shows the number of suicides for youth 10-14 and 15-19 separated by males and females from 1997-2000.

Total Number of Suicides in New York State (Excluding New York City)				
	10-14 Year Olds		15-19 Year Olds	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1997	7	0	40	6
1998	4	1	39	5
1999	4	0	35	7
2000	4	2	43	6

New York State Department of Health

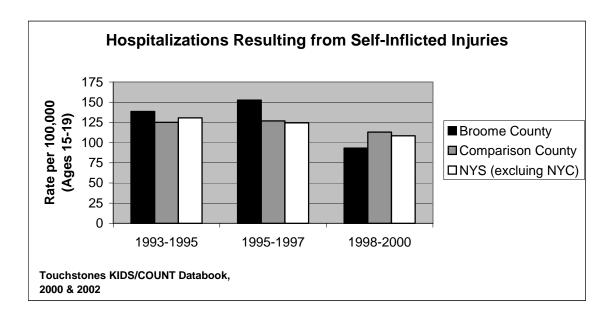
A greater number of males compared to females commit suicide. For males, deaths related to suicide were between seven and eight times that of females.

The figure below presents the suicide rates for individuals across all ages for Broome County and a comparison county. The suicide rates for the counties have been relatively stable.



Another form of self-destructive behavior that is related to depression, and may be related to suicide attempts is self-inflicted injuries. Such injuries involve inflicting minor wounds from scratching or digging and also more serious forms of self-mutilation such as burning or wrist slashing. The figure below shows the rate of hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries in Broome County, a comparison county and New York State. Declining rates in hospitalization in Broome County may reflect a decrease in these behaviors or

possibly a change in the criteria for hospitalization have changed and that these individuals are more likely to be referred to outpatient treatment unless serious harm is determined to be imminent.



The number of youth evaluated in community crisis centers may serve as an index of severe emotional distress. In Broome County, professional staff at the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP), located in the Emergency Department of Binghamton General Hospital, evaluated 1034 children and youth in crisis in 2001 and slighter fewer (978) in 2002. Of the 978 children and youth evaluated in 2002, approximately 23% (229) were subsequently referred for hospitalization.

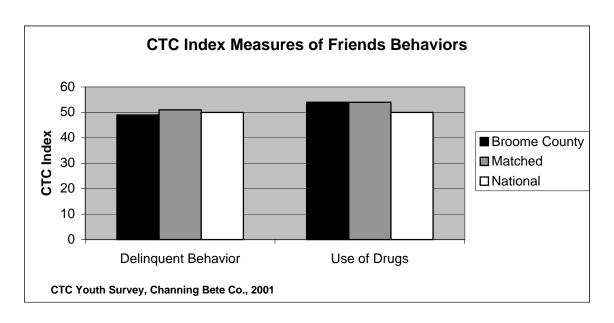
Summary for Alienation and Rebelliousness

- Depression and related behaviors in Broome County youth may be slightly elevated compared to the nation.
- Suicide rates in Broome County are both stable and comparable to those of the comparison county.

Hospitalizations for self-injurious behavior have decreased, which may indicate either a decrease in self-injury, an increase in outpatient treatment or a gap in treatment services for these problems.

13. RISK FACTOR: FRIENDS WHO ENGAGE IN PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

Peers may have the strongest influence on an adolescent's development. Among teens the higher the prevalence of peers using substances, the higher one's own substance use tends to be. In order to tap peer group substance use, the BCYPP administered the Communities That Care® Youth Survey in the fall of 2000, which provided two risk factor indices of friends' involvement in problem behavior: Friend's Delinquent Behavior and Friend's Use of Drugs. A series of questions relating to these variables comprised these scales, including "In the past year, how many of your best friends have been suspended from school" or, "In the past year, how many of your best friends have used marijuana?" The following graph compares Broome County scores on these indices to those of the National and Matched Comparison Group scores.



Although Broome County's score was above the national mean for Friends' Use of Drugs, its score was below that of a comparison group matched to demographics, and the Broome County score on Friends Delinquent Behavior was lower than both National and Matched Comparison Group averages.

Summary of Friend's Use of Substances

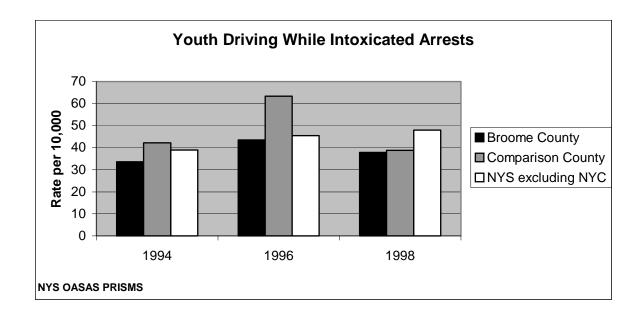
- Broome County youth reported fewer cases of friends engaging in delinquent behavior than both the matched comparison community and the nation.
- Broome County youth reported more friends' use of substances than the national group, but an equivalent percentage to the matched comparison group.

14. RISK FACTOR: EARLY INITIATION OF PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

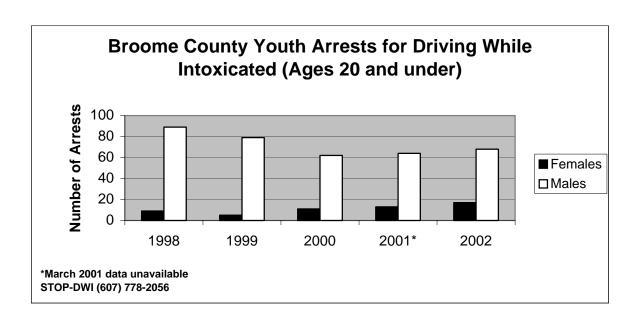
Early age of problem behavior onset such as substance abuse, frequently predicts subsequent problem severity. Hence, communities with individuals initiating substance use at earlier ages have greater general risk for later difficulties with substance abuse and associated problem behaviors.

Risk Indicator: Youth Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Rates

The following figure depicts DWI rates for youth from 1994, 1996, and 1998 for Broome County, the comparison county, and NYS excluding NYC.



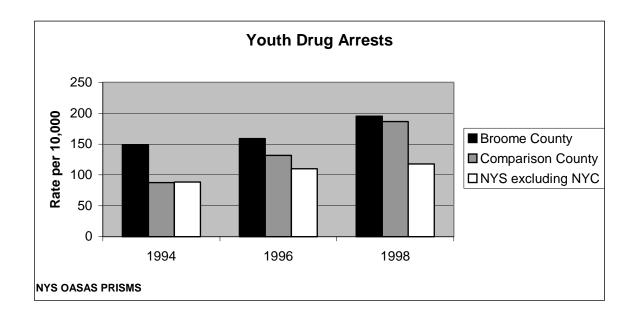
Broome County rates slightly increased between 1994 and 1996 while the comparison had a large increase. Both Broome and the comparison county had a decrease in 1998. NYS rates increased across the years. Overall Broome County youth DWI rates were lower than the comparison county and NYS, and much higher for males compared to females. DWI rates for adolescent males declined substantially between 1998 and 2000, and remained relatively stable, whereas a slight upward trend is evident for Broome County adolescent females.



Risk Indicator: Youth Drug Arrests

The rates of youth drug arrests indicate early initiation of substance use.

This following figure depicts youth drug arrests for 1994, 1996, and 1998 for Broome County, the comparison county, and NYS excluding NYC.



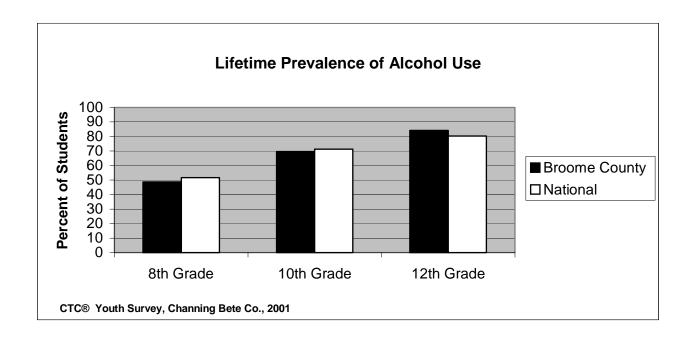
Broome County showed an increasing trend in youth drug arrests across years, with a nearly 30% increase between 1994 and 1998. Compared to New York State (excluding New York City), Broome County had elevated rates of youth arrests for drug use, possession, and sale in 1994, 1996, and 1998. Broome County was also elevated when compared to the comparison county in 1994, however by 1998 the two counties had similar rates in youth drug arrests.

Risk Indicator: Trends in Exposure to Drug Use

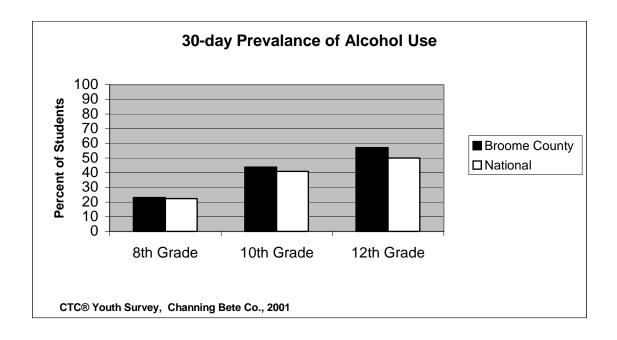
"Trends in Exposure" refers to relative prevalence of substance usage on a community level. The greater the substance use in a community the higher the risk for substance abuse and other problem behaviors among youth.

Alcohol Use

Administered in the fall of 2000, the CTC Youth Survey provides the most recent data regarding substance use by Broome County adolescents. The figure below shows the percentages of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who reported having ever tried alcohol (lifetime use) in Broome County and the nation. Across grade levels, Broome County estimates were similar to national estimates.

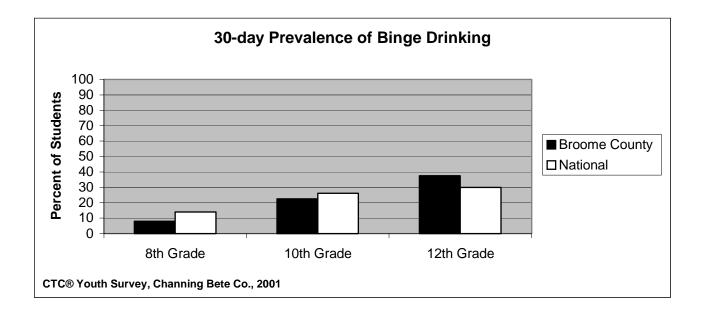


The proportion of adolescents that reported substance use in the last month (30-day use) may provide a better estimate of substance use beyond experimentation. Compared to the national sample, a relatively equivalent proportion of Broome County youth reported alcohol use in the past month. A slightly greater proportion of Broome County 12th graders reported 30-day use compared to their national sample counterparts.



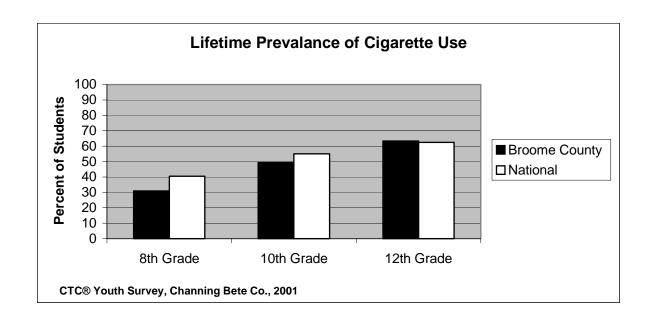
Binge drinking, defined as consuming five or more drinks on one occasion, may provide an index of early alcohol abuse. The CTC survey asked a question that assessed 30-day binge drinking. Fewer 8th graders reported binge drinking in Broome County compared to eighth graders across the nation. However, a larger proportion of twelfth grades indicated binge drinking in the past 30 days compared to national sample twelfth graders. Although one would expect that binge-drinking behavior would be more prevalent among twelfth graders than the younger students, Broome County youth may have a steeper transition into binge drinking behavior than youth across the nation. However, it is important to note that these are cross-sectional data that do not reflect change

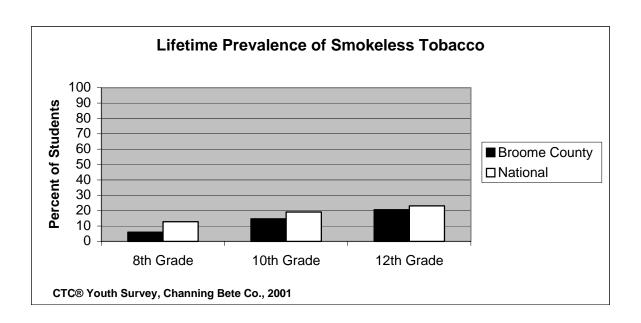
in any one particular adolescent over time, therefore the differences that emerged measure variation between classes versus change across grade levels.



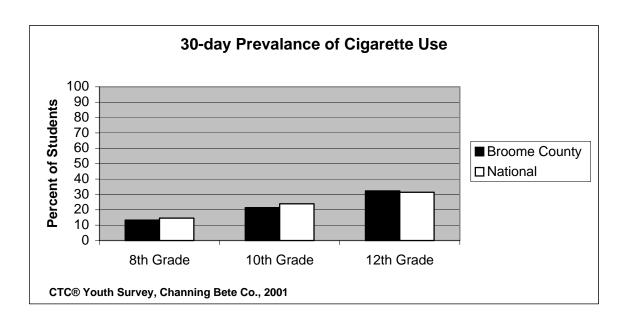
Tobacco Use

More recent data collected using the CTC Youth Survey are displayed in the following figures for both tobacco as smoked in cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Notably fewer 8th graders reported having ever tried cigarettes in Broome County compared to 8th graders in the national sample. A lower percentage of Broome County 8th and 10th graders reported lifetime tobacco use of any kind compared to youth across the nation, whereas the proportion of 12th graders reporting lifetime use was equivalent. As with all other substances their reports of tobacco use increased with grade level.



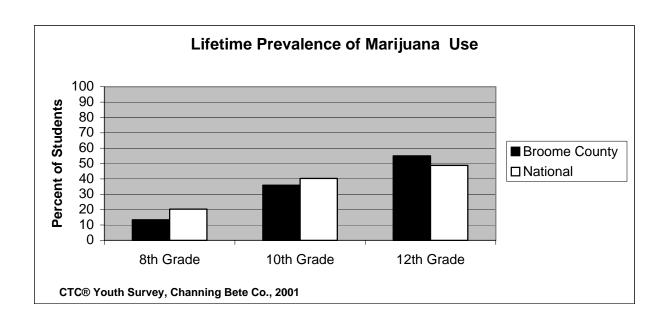


The following figure presents reported rates of cigarette use in the past 30 days for Broome County and national samples. The trends depicted below are consistent with the patterns in the lifetime use data. For both cigarette and smokeless tobacco use, Broome County youth reported levels that were mostly lower than national youth levels, this pattern is similar for smokeless tobacco use. However the discrepancy between the two samples decreased across grade levels, until the twelfth grade when levels of cigarette use mirrored those of the national sample.

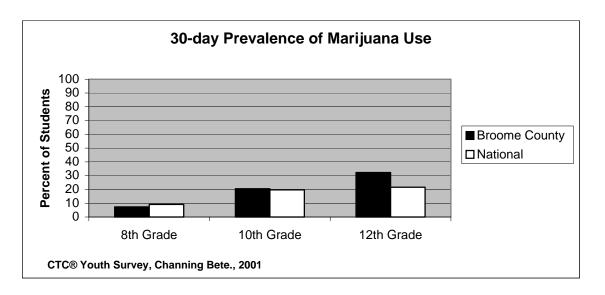


Marijuana

Questions pertaining to marijuana use were also included on the CTC Youth Survey administered in 2000. The following figure depicts the proportion of Broome County youth who reported having tried marijuana (lifetime use) compared to youth across the nation from the Monitoring the Future Study. Consistent with tobacco use data, the percentage of Broome County eighth graders that reported lifetime use of marijuana was less than that of the national sample. By the 10th grade, the rate of lifetime marijuana use in Broome County was only slightly lower than the national average and by the 12th grade, exceeded the national average.



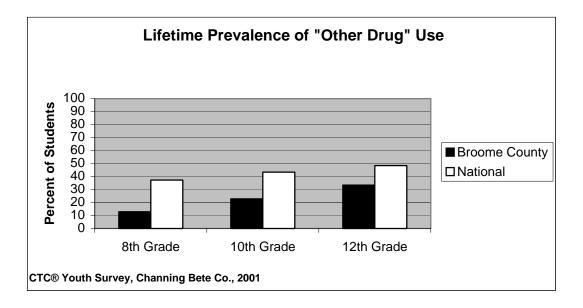
The following figure depicts the proportion of students in the local and national samples that reported marijuana use during the past 30-days. Similar to the lifetime use results, a lower percentage of Broome County 8th graders reported smoking marijuana in the past 30-days compared to the national sample. Moreover, the tenth grade reports were practically equivalent and the twelfth grade reports surpassed the national average. The apparent increase in use across development for marijuana use resembled the binge drinking findings in Broome County.



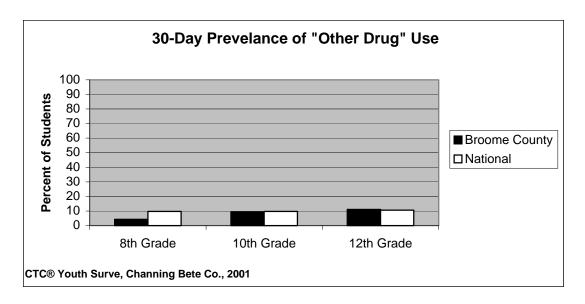
Other Drug Use

Drugs other than alcohol, tobacco and marijuana include cocaine, crack, psychedelics, heroin, and steroids. The figure below presents reported lifetime use of these substances in Broome County obtained from 8th, 10th and 12th

graders who completed the CTC Youth Survey in 2000 compared to the national sample reports.



The following figure shows Broome County student reports of 30-day "Other Drug" use compared to the national sample. Diverging from lifetime usage, aggregated 30-day use is less than that of the national 8th grade sample and consistent with national averages in 10th and 12th grades.



Unfortunately the CTC survey did not ask questions pertaining specifically to Ecstasy, which may have been a "drug of choice" for adolescents engaged in substance experimentation. Ecstasy use has been recently addressed in a survey for which the results have not yet been published.

Additional information regarding "Other Drug" use as well as alcohol, tobacco and marijuana can be found in Appendices E and F, in which Broome County lifetime and 30-day prevalence rates are displayed for grades 7-12 with national comparison groups for Grades 8, 10 and 12.

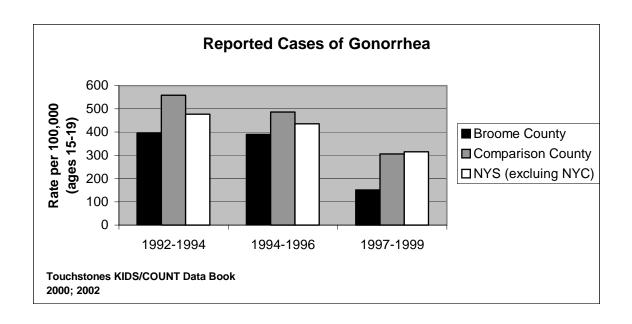
Focus Groups

The BCYPP conducted 20 focus groups in middle and high schools in the four target school districts during the spring of 2001, to obtain further insight into substance use issues for Broome County youth (MacKillop et al, 2001). Each focus group was asked eight questions, which are listed in Appendix C. The major findings from these focus groups were that alcohol, tobacco and marijuana were consistently reported as the problematic substances in Broome County. While high school age students tended to endorse additional substances to these three, middle school students primarily reported alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use as problematic. Reports of additional substances appeared to vary by school district with more pharmaceutical abuse reported in non-urban

districts such as Maine-Endwell and Johnson City and harder drugs (e.g., crack, heroin) reported in the urban school district of Binghamton. Moreover, increased use of the drug Ecstasy was reported across high schools. These data were consistent with the larger trends of increased perceived substance use as a function of adolescents' age and geographic availability. The focus group data were qualitative and should therefore not be interpreted as definitive.

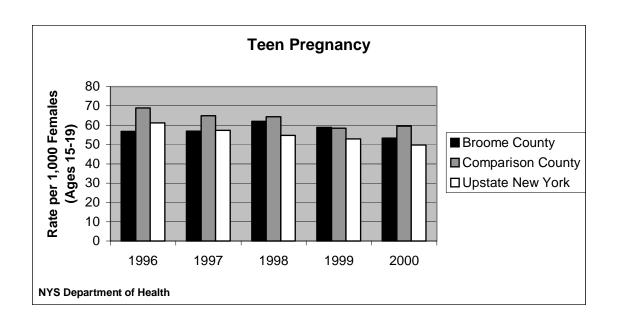
Risk Indicator: Adolescent Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Frequently in conjunction with substance abuse, early and irresponsible sexual behavior is another form of adolescent problem behavior. For this reason, prevalence rates for sexually transmitted diseases in youth can act as an indicator of risky behavior. Broome County had zero reported cases of Syphilis since 1992, which is less than the state average of 5.3 per 100,000 youth. Additionally the prevalence of Gonorrhea in youth age 15-18 substantially decreased from the three-year period of 1994-1996 to 1997-1999. The following figure presents 3-year average rates of Gonorrhea in youth for Broome County, a comparison county and Upstate New York. Across time periods, Broome County rates were lower than state averages and comparison county averages.



Risk Indicator: Adolescent Pregnancy

Early initiation of sexual behavior may become one form of problem behavior. Evidence for such behavior is reflected in the rate of teen pregnancies. The figure below indicates the rate of pregnancies per thousand women ages 15-19 from 1996-2000. In Broome County, this rate has remained relatively stable with a hint of a slight decline. The rate of adolescent pregnancy is slightly higher for Broome County than Upstate New York and below that of the comparison county.



Summary of Early Initiation of Problem Behavior

- Broome County is below average in terms of DWI youth arrests.
- Broome County DWI arrest rates for adolescent males are more than three times the rates for adolescent females.
- Student self-reports reveal that Broome County is below the national average in terms of usage of tobacco and "Other Drugs".
- □ A lower percentage of Broome County 8th graders reported tobacco and marijuana use.

- Broome County 12th graders were above average in terms of alcohol use and marijuana.
- Levels of binge drinking and marijuana use appeared to increase from below average levels in middle school to above average levels by 12th grade in Broome County. These results may reflect a steeper transition into substance use in Broome County or individual grade differences.
- Students reported that alcohol, tobacco and marijuana are the principal substances used by youth and that additional substances are used but differ by geographic region, e.g. more pharmaceutical abuse in suburban target areas.
- □ Broome County has lower rates than New York State of sexually transmitted disease.
- Although adolescent pregnancy rates in Broome County were mostly lower than the comparison county, compared to Upstate New York,
 Broome rates were slightly elevated since 1998 and suggest a target for problem behavior prevention programming.

V. SUMMARY

In conclusion, there are several characteristics of Broome County and local communities that place Broome County youth at risk for early initiation of problem behavior. The following points highlight risk indicators discussed in the preceding sections in which Broome County either deviated from state or national norms, or in which target areas differed from each other in ways that are meaningful to the prevention of substance abuse. Areas in which Broome County data were comparable to national averages are not repeated. A risk-focused approach to prevention programming involves targeting weaker areas of the community in order to reduce risk and enhance protection.

COMMUNITY LAWS & NORMS FAVORABLE TOWARDS DRUG USE & CRIME:

□ The rate of felony charges for drug related offenses has risen in Broome County, but has declined for the state. Increasing indictment rates indicate a commitment by the county to enforce drug-related laws.

COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS AND MOBILITY:

- Broome County has experienced the second largest decline in population compared to 61 other counties within New York State.
- Binghamton and Johnson City School Districts reported a large number of students moving in and out of the school districts in the past year, indicating that at least 10% of the student population is adjusting to new environments.

COMMUNITY DISORGANIZATION:

Across indices of neighborhood disorganization, including adult non-violent crimes and adult drug arrests, Broome County was elevated compared to NYS, suggesting higher levels of youth exposure to drug use and problem behaviors.

ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION:

- According to all indices, Binghamton has elevated rates of poverty compared to the other three target communities, as well as to state and national averages.
- Compared to state and national averages, poverty rates are moderate in Johnson City and relatively low for Maine and Endwell.

Unemployment rates increased more than 75% between 2000 and
 2002 suggesting little relief from economic hardship for Broome
 County.

FAMILY HISTORY AND INVOLVEMENT IN PROBLEM BEHAVIOR:

Statistics regarding educational attainment for the four target school districts are consistent with poverty rates. Binghamton and Johnson City have higher rates of high school dropouts compared to Union-Endicott and Maine-Endwell. Patterns of poverty level were also reflect in Bachelor degree attainment levels except Maine Town had the second lowest rate of Bachelor degree attainment along with lower poverty levels.

FAMILY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS:

- Scores for the category "Family Dysfunction" on the OASAS
 PRISMS 2001 profile were higher for Broome County than NYS.
- Divorce rates were slightly elevated for Broome County compared to New York State and may serve as indicators of family conflict and family management problems.

- Higher rates of children are classified as PINS in Broome County compared to NYS suggesting parental difficulty with discipline and supervision.
- Parents primarily endorse negative attitudes regarding youth substance use and appear to be cognizant of the risks involved, but underestimate the prevalence of youth substance use.

ACADEMIC FAILURE:

- Between 30% 50% of eighth graders across the school districts of
 Binghamton, Johnson City, Union-Endicott, and Maine-Endwell are
 not meeting state standards in English Language Arts and Math.
- On academic achievement tests, students in Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott tend to have higher scores than students from the other target areas, followed by Johnson City.
- Depending on the test, scores from Johnson City compared both favorably and unfavorably to Binghamton, Union-Endicott and Maine-Endwell.
- Binghamton tended to be below the other target districts on most academic measures.

LACK OF COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL:

 Suspension rates for the target school districts of Johnson City and Binghamton were higher than those of Maine-Endwell and Union-Endicott.

ALIENATION AND REBELLIOUSNESS:

 Depression and related behaviors in Broome County are slightly elevated relative to national norms.

EARLY INITIATION OF PROBLEM BEHAVIOR:

- □ In terms of substance use prevalence, Broome County is above average for alcohol and marijuana use in the 12th grade and mixed for tobacco and other drug use.
- Alcohol and marijuana use increased from below average levels in middle school (8th grade) to above national norms by 12th grade.

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